**THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

**Matthew 7:7-12**

 Matthew 7:7-12 (Read passage)

1. **Eagerly pray to God (vs. 7-8)**

**Prayer is to be your first option not your last resort.**

**II. Persistently pray to God (vs. 7)**

***“You will seek me and you will find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13***

**The period of time between the offering of our prayers and His answer is the crucible of life which shapes us into His image.**

**III. Expectantly pray to God (vs. 8)**

1. Obey God's commands

***"And whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him." - 1 John 3:22***

2. Submit to God's will

"***And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. - 1 John 5:14-15***

3. Persevere - Ask, seek, knock

**IV. Embrace the Character of God (vs. 9-11)**

1. Trustworthy
2. Good
3. Wise
4. Accessible
5. In control

 **V. Love and Serve others through the power of God (vs. 12)**