What You're Looking For Matthew 7:7-11

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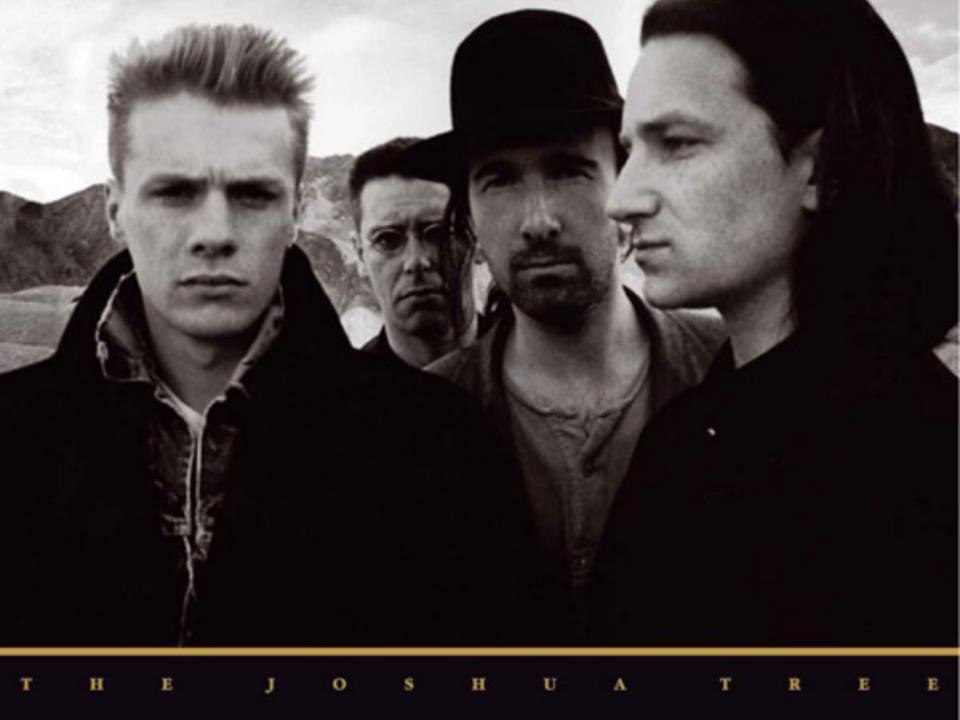
"I have climbed the highest mountains, I have run through the fields, only to be with you.

I have run I have crawled, I have scaled these city walls, these city walls, only to be with you. But I still haven't found what I'm looking for..." "I have kissed honey lips, felt the healing in the fingertips. It burned like fire, this burning desire.

I have spoke with the tongue of angels, I have held the hand of a devil, it was one empty night, I was cold as a stone. But I still haven't found what I'm looking for..." "I believe when the Kingdom comes, then all the colors will bleed into one, bleed into one, but yes I'm still running.

You broke the bonds, You loosened the chains. You carried the cross, of my shame. You know I believed it..

But I still haven't found what I'm looking for..."



What do we do when our experiences don't match up with what we have learned, read and say we believe?

#### Matthew 7:7-11

<sup>7</sup> "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.<sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>9</sup> "You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead?

#### Matthew 7:7-11

<sup>10</sup> Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! <sup>11</sup> So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him." (NLT)

Ask \*Keep asking

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

<sup>16</sup> "Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing,
 <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this
 is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

## Ask \*Keep asking \*Assumes you already pray \*Greek word "Aiteo" (I-tay-oh) - Beg/plead

Seek \*Act into motion



Seek

\*Act into motion

\*Seeking God through The Bible (His Word)

- \* Seeking God through The Body (His Church)
- \*Seeking God's presence (His Spirit)
- \*Hunt the treasure!



Knock \*No joke, keep knocking! \*The door will be opened

# Ask, seek & knock and you will receive, find and have it opened.

Has that been your experience?

Prayer
\* How long have you asked?
\* Did you care enough to beg/plead?
\* Did you seek while asking?

#### James 4:2b-3

"Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. <sup>3</sup> And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure."

God's response to our prayers \*A father \*Not a cold observer \*Not a genie \*He listens to His children

\* Moved to action by the prayers of His children

Be encouraged to pray persistently, pray with genuine interest and pray with real trust in God listening and answering.

## Challenge: Don't be led by your past experiences, instead be led forward by God

## Challenge: Pray as if things depend on your prayers, because they do!

# Challenge: Seek God while your pray! Don't stop praying until you have an answer.

God Hears You God Cares God Wants to Use You God Has What You're Looking For

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