



Anthem: If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)
transcribed & edited by C. F. Simkins

**Matthew 7:7 - Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you. NIV**

In Matthew 7:7, the words used for *ask*, *seek*, and *knock* are Greek imperatives and indicate constant asking, seeking, and knocking. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus was encouraging faith and persistent prayer to accomplish God's purposes.

These three words suggest traits of a believer desiring to know God's will and to have His guidance.

★ Asking suggests dependence.

★ Seeking suggests yearning.

★ Knocking suggests persistence.

... from *Zondervan Study Bible* footnote

The anthem's text is from John 14:15-17a. **"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever----the Spirit of truth."** NIV

In this passage, as soon as Jesus had spoken to his disciples about their love and obedience, he assured them God would send a Counselor or a Comforter to them because living for Christ is not always easy.

William Barclay noted the word *comforter* comes from the Latin *fortis* which means brave, and it was used to mean someone who enabled "some dispirited creature to be brave." The Comforter "takes away our inadequacies and enables us to cope with life." William Barclay

How amazing it is that the God of all creation encourages His human creation to confidently ask, seek, and knock while providing courage and hope through the Holy Spirit!

Prayer: God, I depend on You. I yearn to know Your purpose for me so as to live within Your will. I have faith that with the Holy Spirit, I can be brave in my living, witness, and service.

Anthem Text

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever;
E'en the sp'rit of truth.

— *John 14:15–17*