

About...

Ask and keep on asking

...how and why it was written

This song was written spontaneously during a worship time, but was inspired by a new understanding of Jesus' famous words in [Matthew 7](#) and [Luke 11](#) - ask (and keep on asking); seek (and keep on seeking); knock (and keep on knocking) which I had been thinking about a lot of the few days leading up to it happening.

It seemed to be something that I needed to transfer from my mind into the very core of my being – and so it was a natural progression that this heart-cry and creedal intent to be a persistent pray-er became a song.

...how, where and when it could be used

This is a simple song which works well in congregational settings, and can be used flexibly to play for any number of different situations.

It has also had its words adapted to create a creedal prayer, which you can download from www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-prayer

...its place on the journey to where world and worship meet

So often we pray for things for a while and then run out of faith, steam or focus... and the bigger the situation the harder it seems to be to retain the hope required to be persistent in prayer.

Or we return to them intermittently, almost by rote, as the nations and issues we must always pray for... and the longer the situation has been going on, the harder it seems to be to retain the genuine passion required to offer intercession that is from our hearts as well as our mouths.

1.4 billion people living in extreme poverty; continuing violence in Syria; the Eurozone in crisis; people in the UK facing recession and redundancy; conflict in Afghanistan, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories...

These are so much harder to consistently and wholeheartedly bring before God than our own financial concerns; relationship issues; and close friends who are struggling.

We find it hard *not* to pray about our own concerns - it comes out in a rush of desperation - an unavoidable, persistent flow. And yet even in these areas we are quick to stop praying - responding instead by trying to fix things ourselves, or simply putting change down to wishful thinking.

There is a place for action. There is a place for realism. But to stop praying is to lose hope. Jesus taught us that our persistence in prayer makes all the difference ([Luke 11](#)). Why? Is it to try and make God care more? Is it to convince God that we care? Or is it because he is waiting to see if we have truly caught his heart?

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Because bringing love, light, peace, truth and justice was always his idea before it was ours. And whenever we try to intercede for these - even if (and perhaps especially when) we struggle to find any coherent words - surely it's the Spirit within us that's praying ([Romans 8:26](#)).

Recently I've found it helpful to come back to these almost creedal statements - when it comes to these issues, we're committing to keep asking; keep seeking and keep knocking - we're confessing to God that we're prepared to pray every day of our lives if necessary. And this song has helped us to make that commitment, and to press into God in prayer, for a number of those big asks we're daring to pray for.

Because I have seen that our God is the hope for transformation. I've seen him work in power already to turn my life around, and so many others' too. Again and again.

And I know that the reason I'm moved to pray for these issues at all is only because he's laid them on my heart. He's looking for a people who'll ask and keep on asking for what he longs to do. And I want to be a part of that. I'm committed to pray and keep on praying.