

Just Ask Part 2

Matthew 7:7-8- “Ask, and it shall be given to you. Seek, and you shall find.

Knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it shall be opened.”

When we ask something of someone we are making a request or we are calling for an answer. This is essentially the core of our prayers; we are asking God for His intervention. We are asking for His help, His Guidance, His wisdom, and so very often His healing. Ask is another word for beseech, which has adds a sense of urgently or anxiously asking. The primary difference between ask and beseech would be, “God please help me with my patience (ask),” and “God *grant* me patience and hurry (beseech). It is about as simple as it gets.

“Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication.”-

Psalm 55:1

An interesting part of the Psalm above is supplication. Supplication is another *synonym* for prayer that is found throughout scripture. Another slant on the word supplication is to *ask* in *earnest* or *humbly*. One definition went as far as to say “begging.” I’m sure there has been occasion in everyone’s life where begging was not out of the question when it came to prayer.

When you pray, do you *talk to* God or *talk at* God? Are you sharing your heart with Him or giving Him your wish list? Is there praise for Him in your prayers? Is it repetitious mumblings from a string of beads or a sincere conversation with your Heavenly Father who loves hearing from you? Jesus taught us how to pray in **Matthew 6.**

Matthew 6:9-13- “Therefore, you are to pray after this manner: ‘Our Father Who *is* in heaven, hallowed be Your name; Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth, as *it is* in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.’”

We should remember to approach God in right standing when we ask anything in prayer.

James 5:16- “Confess *your* faults to one another, and *pray for one another, that you may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man prevails much, being effective.*”

Asking the right things in the right manner we know that if it is in His Will it will happen. This may be an area where we tend to limit God again. It may not always be the answer we were looking for. We will throw in the caveat of “according to Your Will” but we forget the first part of our responsibilities regarding the right way and manner to ask. Many prayers include “*if* it is your will,” which may just be semantics over “according to your will.” But news flash, everything is God’s will, including our right to deny Him and His Sovereignty. God certainly knows all of our needs, our wants, and desires.

Matthew 6:8- “Now then, do not be like them; for your Father knows what things you have need of before you ask Him.”

We should have no concerns regarding anything.

Luke 12:24-31- “Consider the ravens; for they do not sow, nor reap; neither have they a storehouse or granary; but God feeds them. Of how much greater value are you than the birds? And which one of you, by taking careful thought, has the power to add one cubit to his stature? Therefore, if you do not have the power to do even the least, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow; they do not labor, nor do they spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these. But if God so adorns the grass that today is in the field, and tomorrow is cast into an oven, how much more shall He clothe you, O you of little faith? Then do not be seeking what you shall eat or what you shall drink, and do not be anxious. For all the nations of the world seek after these things; and your Father knows that you have need of these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.” (**Matthew 6:33** has “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Too many churches forget the “and His righteousness” part.)

Proverbs 15:29- “The LORD *is* far from the wicked, but *He hears the prayer of the righteous.*”

Being in right standing with God will get our prayers to the “priority in-box” and not filed with incoming junk mail.

John 9:31- “Now we know that God *does not* hear sinners. But if anyone is God-fearing and *is doing* His will, He hears him.”

Many people give God lip service in their prayer life due to the apparent lack of faith. This can be slight or huge depending on the situation but none the less it manifests itself in many ways. Too often this weakness hinders what we ask. It's almost as if we accept defeat before the battle begins even though the war has already been won.

We all know that “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”- **Hebrews 11:1**. In looking at some worldly definitions of faith, it is defined as *confidence* or *trust* in a person or being. In this case, it would be **confidence and trust in God**. This is exemplified when people say, “oh that's just the way they are, or the way he or she is.” Placing a limit on what God can and will do. Remember, God spoke the Universe into existence (Genesis 1:3). There is no limit to what He can do. We forget His power and *who we are in Him*. Imparting doubt into our prayer limits the effectiveness of our prayers. The enemy is an expert at casting fear and doubt.

Mark 4:40- “And He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? Why do you not have faith?”

Planting the seed of doubt and a little fear of ridicule will lead to watery prayers.

Could this be a reason so many in the church never ask for prayer? How many times have you suffered an ailment or had an issue where the intervention of prayer would have been effective? News FLASH! It will always be effective. Even if your prayers are not answered in the manner in which you hoped, it is still an opportunity for His saints to glorify and honor Him, acknowledging our total dependence upon God!

Case in point, many of you subscribe to the prayer request lists that are sent out by CGG and CBCG. Receive these as an opportunity to serve and glorify God by praying for those who reach out in faith. I love reading the praise reports from those on the lists. So many of us are reluctant to ask for prayer from the brethren as we may be embarrassed or consider our problem or request to small for God.

Wrong! The following is one from recent CGG update:

Clinton, Deborah

Surprise, Arizona

Previous Requests

08-Jan-26

Debbie writes,

I just wanted you to know that God has completely healed my foot, as well as my body & skin from the ordeal I dealt with post-Feast. God is answering His people's prayers and mom & I are finally able to enjoy His peace. We're praying earnestly for everyone and are trusting in His power to heal those in urgent need. To literally experience God's miracles and mercy is genuine happiness!

For those of you who receive these requests, you might know this lady from her frequent requests as well as her mom Jane. They ask for prayer for the smallest of things as do several others. They are constantly asking for prayer, and we should be constantly praying (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**).

We tend to keep God on the shelf until something big happens, but He wants to be a part of our lives every day. What better way than to give Him glory than to pray to Him. There is no embarrassment involved for who among anyone on planet earth will judge you when it really matters?

1 Corinthians 4:10- “We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you *are* wise in Christ; we *are* weak, but you *are* strong; you *are* glorious, but we *are* without honor.”

2 Corinthians 1:11- “While you also are laboring together for us by supplication *to God*, that the gift to us from many persons might be *the* cause of thanksgiving by many for us.”

Romans 15:30- “Now I exhort you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in prayers to God on my behalf.”

Praise reports such as these are glorifying God and stressing the power of prayer. They are edifying to the brethren as we can witness God’s grace and mercy manifest itself in the prayers of the faithful.

We must approach the throne room of God with confidence and faith in Him and His Word.

Ephesians 3:12- “In Whom we have boldness and *direct* access with confidence through His *very* own faith.”

Hebrews 4:16- “Therefore, we should come with boldness to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Notice I said *confidence* and not cockiness. We have the Word of God and Jesus Christ as our intercessor. Is there a way we can increase our faith? How do we “get there?”

Matthew 17:20- “And Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a *tiny* mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, ‘Remove from here,’ and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you.”

We saw what happened to Peter when he stepped out of the boat to walk on the water to Jesus and he took his eyes off The Lord (**Matthew 14:29-31**). Eliminating doubt in our prayer life and our faith is a beginning to becoming an effective prayer warrior.

1 Timothy 2:8- “Therefore, I desire that men everywhere pray, lifting up holy hands without anger and *evil* opinions.”

Developing faith, the size of a mustard seed requires us to cast aside all fear and doubt.

Psalm 64:1- “Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from fear of the enemy.”

Distractions from the evil one are a constant but faith and persistence to press through will yield results in our prayer life. The force of the Greek from Matthew 7:8 means to ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, and knock and keep on knocking. God isn't too busy to hear us, but maybe we are not yet ready to receive what it is we are asking for.

Clear illustrations that demonstrate faith and “pressing through” can be found in the example of the Centurion in **Matthew 8:5-13**. The Centurion accepted and believed in Jesus' authority. He *accepted* the **Word** of Jesus and required nothing else. We too have the Word of God.

Romans 10:17- “So then, faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of God.”

If you ever wonder why some of these lessons may be scriptural overload, now you know.

Another example I'll use is the woman in **Mark 5:25-34**. The woman had suffered with illness for many years and wasted her time and money on man's cures and was only getting worse. Hearing of Jesus and knowing of Him, she knew that if she could just press through the crowd and touch the hem of His garment, such a small act would heal her. She knew, she *pressed through* her fears and **did not doubt**. The healing was immediate and confirmed by Jesus when He asked, "**Who touched me?**"

Do we press through when we are confronted with crisis or do we throw the towel in, shrug our shoulders, and say, "that's just the way it is" and accept defeat?

Matthew 21:21-22- "Then Jesus answered *and* said to them, "Truly I say to you, **if you have faith and do not doubt**, not only shall you do the *miracle* of the fig tree, but even if you shall say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it shall come to pass. And everything that *you shall ask in prayer*, **believing**, you shall receive."

Mark 11:24- "For this reason I say to you, all the things that **you ask** when you are praying, **believe** that you will receive them, and they shall be given to you."

The woman with the bleeding was *earnestly* seeking God. She believed she would be healed if she could just touch the hem of His garment. Are we intently with faith requesting God's intervention in our prayers?

Hebrews 11:6- "Now without faith *it is* impossible to please *God*. For it is mandatory *for* the one who comes to God to believe *that* He exists, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

In **James 2:26** it reads, "For as the body is dead, so faith without works is dead also." An increase in faith requires works. At least in my interpretation it means you need to get off the bench. Those who Christ healed sought Him, He didn't advertise or hand out tracts. They asked, they beseeched, they did so earnestly and humbly. It didn't matter what the crowds may have thought. They came to Jesus expecting.

Mark 2:3-5- "Then they came to Him, bringing a paraplegic borne by four *men*. And since they were not able to come near to Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was; and after breaking *it* open, they let down the stretcher on which the paraplegic was lying. Now when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paraplegic, "Child, your sins have been forgiven you."

Mark 1:40-42- “And a leper came to Him, beseeching Him and kneeling down to Him, and saying to Him, “If You will, You have the power to cleanse me.” Then Jesus, being moved with compassion, stretched out *His* hand *and* touched him, and said to him, “I will. Be cleansed.” And as soon as He had spoken, the leprosy immediately departed from him, and he was cleansed.”

Mark 5:22-23- “And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name; and when he saw Him, he fell at His feet; And he earnestly besought Him, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. I beg You to come and lay Your hands on her, so that she may be healed; and she shall live.”

Mark 7:32-35- “Then they brought to Him a deaf man who spoke with difficulty, and they requested of Him that He lay *His* hands on him. And after taking him apart from the multitude, He put His fingers into his ears; and *then* He spit *on His finger* and touched his tongue; And after looking up to heaven, He groaned, and said to him, “Ephphatha;” that is, “Be opened!” And immediately his ears were opened, and the band of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly.”

Mark 8:22-25- “And He came to Bethsaida, and they brought to Him a blind man and besought Him that He might touch him. Then He took hold of the blind man’s

hand and led him out of the village, and He spit on his eyes and laid His hands on him, and then He asked him if he saw anything. And when he looked up, he said, “I see men as trees walking.” Then He again laid His hands on his eyes and made him look up. And he was restored, and he saw everything clearly.”

Luke 7:2-3- “Now a certain centurion’s servant, who was cherished by him, was ill and about to die. And after hearing about Jesus, **he sent** the elders of the Jews *to beseech Him to come and heal his servant.*”

Luke 9:38-42- “And a man in the crowd immediately cried out, saying, “Master, **I beseech You**, look upon my son, because he is my only child; And a spirit takes him, and he suddenly cries out; and it throws him into convulsions with foaming, and then departs from him with difficulty, leaving him bruised. And I besought Your disciples, that they might cast it out; but they were not able.” Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you, and bear with you? Bring your son here.” And as he was approaching, the demon flung him down and threw him into convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and gave him back to his father.”

James 5:13-15- “ Is anyone suffering hardship among you? *Let him pray*. Is anyone happy? *Let him sing praise*. Is anyone sick among you? *Let him call* for the elders of the church and let them pray over him after anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And *the prayer of faith shall save the sick one*, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”

These scriptures illustrate those seeking Jesus came to Him believing. They were not hindered by fear of ridicule or judgment. We need to seek and ask God without any fear of embarrassment or concerns over someone judging us or what the content of our prayers may be. Much like a child asking their parents for something, they have no cares in asking for anything. Maybe that’s why He desires us to be childlike?

Matthew 18:3- “And said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, there is no way that you shall enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Whether a need is great or small, God already knows. Our faith is tested by how much we step out in *that faith* and trust in Him.

Psalm 116:1-2- “I love the LORD because He hears my voice and my prayers.

Because He has bowed down His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.”

If we genuinely love the Lord, we will trust Him in every aspect of our lives, especially in our prayers. We will seek Him in all things great and small. We will ask of Him from our hearts for concerns or needs. Our faith determines the strength of our prayers and supplications. Do we pray believing He hears us?

1 John 5:14-15- “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, whatever we may ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.”

All too often, we tend to limit our prayers because we don't think God will answer or it may be too much to ask. We settle for something less than what we think God is capable of or would grant. I can't imagine a race car driver setting out to come in second place. We are not on the Road to Salvation for second place.

1 Kings 9:3- “And the LORD said to him, “I have heard your prayer and your cry which you have made before Me. I have made holy this house which you have built to put My name there forever. And My eyes and My heart shall be there perpetually.”

2 Chronicles 6:40- “Now, my God, *I beseech You*, let Your eyes be open and Your ears hear the prayer made in this place.”

We know God is intimately involved in our lives from our studies. We must remember this in our prayer life as well. We ourselves must do our part to grow in our faith and trust that our prayers are effective weapons against the forces of darkness and they are heard on high. Just ask. Amen.

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