

ASK AND IT WILL BE GIVEN

There are three different avenues presented to us from God for requesting what we need from Him: ask, seek and knock. Let us begin in

Mt 7:7-11. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 "Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 "Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

God is always ready to help but WE first need to ask in the proper spirit of humility and sincerity before seeking our request with earnestness, diligence and perseverance. Having God's promise answered is especially appreciated at the time we feel Yah has not heard or responded to the details we wanted. We do not always receive God's answers within the confines of our imposed time table. Instead, we must wait, even with a troubled or saddened heart, until Yah's time to answer has met HIS time table. He never lies, therefore His promises will always be kept. All these are action words on our behalf. He wants us to want Him. Persistence and our trust in Him remain our choices!

Let's look at HOW we should ask:

- *Prayer*
 - Mt 21:22 "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."
 - Mk 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

Thus in praying for something needed, one must believe that it will be given to you with the condition that one understands and accepts that God does not always give the "very thing" we ask for, but gives essential help that expands our spiritual capacity into becoming an imitator of Christ. He answers the small prayers or requests as the foundation in our belief so we have faith and trust in Him for future trials. God's spiritual nurturing is similar to that of a parent in not giving something injurious to his child, always seeking what will prove most beneficial to him.

- *Be vigilant and constant*
 - Lk 18:1-5 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 "Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' 4 "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"

Yah wants us to always pray including those occasions when we are afflicted. Regardless of such challenging times, we must continue to give thanks to Him for blessings, maintaining that spirit of prayer and connection to Him. Despite that our prayers remain unanswered, we must persevere like the biblical example of the widow in the previous scripture whose constant entreaties to the judge caused him to finally relent, granting the widow what she asked because she continued to make her request known.

- *Be in God's will*
 - John 15:7-8 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

If the power of the Father's Spirit spoken through Christ's words are dwelling within us, and His commandments subsequently control our conduct, there is certainly a creation of harmony between what we pray for and the Father's will. It is His words in us that help us to grow spiritually which in turn will eventually bear fruit to His glory.

- *Have faith and do not doubt*
 - James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

If we maintain a firm confidence in the power, love and faithfulness of God without doubting, we can boldly be assured that He will hear our prayers. God sees our hearts – if He sees that there is no belief in His existence, no real trust in Him or no reliance on His promises, our prayers will not be answered.

- *Follow His commandments & law*
 - 1 John 3:22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Our keeping His commandments evidences that we are His children. He hears His children! Just as earthly parents are disposed to bestowing favor on obedient, affectionate and dutiful children, so will God hear the prayers of those that please Him by their obedience and submission to His will.

If we ask, we can be assured that we will receive: Prov 8:17 I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me. Also in Jer 29:12-13 Then you will call

upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Our earthly parents should always want to give the best to their children as does our Father in heaven. Our Heavenly Father gives us the most perfect gifts: the remission of our sins through the death of His son, and His Holy Spirit in order for us to repent, become righteous and have the opportunity of eternal life.

Acts 2: 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

James 1:17-18 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

We are His creation, His children. Let us have faith without doubting! Come boldly to Him on His throne in prayer and supplication in everything. Let us be the first fruits of His creation!

Proverb to ponder:

Proverbs 15:29: The LORD is far from the wicked: but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

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