

Jesus Is Encouraging Us to Ask and Trust

Luke 11:9-13

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. Now suppose one of you is asked by his son for a fish; you will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, you will not give him a scorpion, will you? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give *the Holy Spirit* to those who ask Him?”

Luke 11 begins (vs. 1-4) with the disciples asking Jesus to teach them *how to pray*. Jesus responds with a model prayer that contains six statements (three about God, and three about us). The last statement, "And lead us not into temptation" gave rise to a parable (vs. 5-8). Now we come to the conclusion of the matter, and Jesus is encouraging us to never hesitate bringing our requests before the Lord in prayer.

Three reasons why we should pray in our time of need:

(1). God responds to those who ask, seek and knock – (vs. 9-10)

When you pause to consider that God is infinitely strong and can do all that He pleases, and that He is infinitely righteous so that He only does what is right, and that He is infinitely good so that He always does everything for ultimate perfect good, and that He is infinitely wise so that he always knows perfectly what is right and good, and that He is infinitely loving so that in all His strength and righteousness and goodness and wisdom He raises the eternal joy of His loved ones as high as it can be raised — when you pause to consider this, then the lavish invitations of this God to ask Him for good things, with the promise that He will give them, is unimaginably wonderful. (John Piper). It seems that "**ask, seek, and knock**" portrays persons at every level of spiritual intimacy with God. Closeness requires a simple ask; further distance requires seeking; a stranger will knock on the door.

(2). God does for us far better than we could ever think or ask – (vs. 11-12)

"Now to Him who is able to do **far more abundantly** beyond all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20).

"Far more abundantly" (exceeding abundantly – KJV) is a compound word used here and in only two other places: 1 Thess. 3:10; 1 Thess. 5:13. It means, "to an extent which we cannot express." *Praying people will eventually become speechless people.* God does what all men cannot do.

As it is written (about the gospel) "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into The heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (I Corinthians 2:9).
entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him."

(3). The Holy Spirit is everything you need in your time of crisis – (v. 13).

When Jesus taught us to pray, He taught us to ask for our daily bread, the ability to rest in His forgiveness and to freely and fully forgive others, and that God would deliver us from temptation. All these requests could be summarized: a. daily needs, b. relationships, and c. personal safety.

Yet, Jesus summarizes all these needs with one gift: How much more shall He give the Holy Spirit: The Christian life is a battle between being "empowered and led by the Spirit" or "by the flesh."

Do we want the Spirit to fall in our midst? Is it the Spirit we wish to follow? Of course it is. Why?

- a. Holy – a cut above – when we are being led by the Spirit, we have an excellence out this world.
- b. Spirit – God's power within – when we are led by the Spirit, we are able to do the impossible.
- c. The Holy Spirit – will guide us into truth; guard you from our enemies; and give us peace.