

ASKING, SEEKING, AND KNOCKING IS WHAT CHILDREN DO

Our Father teaches us that He honors that approach when we make our petitions to Him with that attitude. At its core must be our unwavering faith and perseverance.

Luke 11:9

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Observations:

We must have a honest heart.

A need or a request must first be acknowledged to the full extent that its unfulfillment has an effect on us. Essentially, the truth of our lack or expectation must not be denied.

Double-mindedness does not please God.

James 1:6-7

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.

Our Father tries us to see what is in our hearts.

Deuteronomy 8:2

And you shall remember all the way which the LORD (the Eternal One) your God led you these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, and to test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments, or not.

An approach and a pattern:

- Initial request
- Initial Response (not favorable)
- Persistence/perseverance
- Granting of request

Lot with the angels...

Genesis: 19:1-3

1. And there came two angels to Sodom at evening; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground (**note: worship before petition – of the angels representing God**);

2. And he said, Behold now, my lords, ● turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and you shall rise up early, and go on your ways.

→ And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

→→ 3. And he pressed upon them greatly;

→→→ and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

An approach and a pattern:

- Initial request
- Initial Response (not favorable)
- Persistence/perseverance
- Granting of request

The widow and the unjust judge...

Luke: 18:1-8

1. And he spoke a parable unto them to this end, that **men ought always to pray, and not to faint**;
2. Saying, There was in a city a judge, who feared not God, neither regarded man;
3. And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying,
 - Avenge me of my adversary.
 - 4. And he would not for a while:
 - but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;
5. Yet because this widow troubles me, I will avenge her, lest →→→ by her continual coming she wearies me.
6. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge says.
7. And shall not God avenge his own elect, ((→→ who cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?))
8. I tell you that ((→→→ he will avenge them speedily.)) Nevertheless when the Son of man comes, shall he find **the faith** on the earth?

An approach and a pattern:

- Initial request
- Initial Response (not favorable)
- Persistence/perseverance
- Granting of request

The woman of Canaan and Jesus and his disciples...

Matthew 15:21-28

21 Then Jesus went from there, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, ● Have mercy on me, O Lord, you son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. → 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she cries after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 25 ● Then came she and worshipped him (**note: worship added before petition**), saying, Lord, help me. → 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. →→27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. →→→28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is your faith: be it done unto you even as you will. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

An approach and a pattern:

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- Initial Response (not favorable)
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Isaac and the Lord

Genesis 25:21

And Isaac (●) (→) (→→) (→→→) intreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

entreat:

ask someone earnestly or anxiously to do something
to ask (a person) earnestly; beseech; implore; beg
to make an earnest request

An approach and a pattern:

- Initial request
- Initial Response (not favorable)
- Persistence/perseverance
- Granting of request

Jacob and God

Genesis 32:24-28

24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. 25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. 26 And he said, (→) Let me go, for the day breaks. And (→→) he (Jacob) said, I will not let you go, except you bless me. 27 And he said unto him, What is your name? And he said, Jacob. 28 And (→→→) he said, Your name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince have you wrestled with God and with men, and have prevailed.

Pray always...

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving (**note: with thanksgiving**) let your requests be made known unto God.

1 Thessalonians 17-18

17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In everything give thanks (**note: in all circumstances give thanks whether we feel circumstances are in our favor or not, or regardless of being able to see how “on earth” things may turn around, remember Romans 8:28**): for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints

James 5:16

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Pray: ask, seek, knock at the door continuously, while walking in obedience

Matthew 7:7-12

7. Ask (*present continuous*), and it shall be given (*present continuous*) you; seek (*present continuous*) and you shall find (*present continuous*); knock (*present continuous*) and it shall be opened (*present continuous*) unto you: 8. For every one that asks (*present continuous*) receives (*present continuous*); and he that seeks (*present continuous*) finds (*present continuous*); and to him that knocks (*present continuous*) it shall be opened (*present continuous*). 9. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son asks bread, will he give him a stone? 10. Or if he asks a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11. If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? 12. ****Therefore**** (**note: be walking in God's will**): all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do it likewise to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

John 15:7

If you abide (*present continuous*) in me, and my words abide (*present continuous*) in you, you shall ask (*present continuous*) what you will (*present continuous*), and it shall be done (*present continuous*) unto you.

* *present continuous, e.g. ask = be asking*

Psalms 37:3-5

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shall you dwell in the land, and verily you shall be fed. 4 Delight yourself also in the LORD: and he shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

#FAITH = OBEDIENCE → CONFIDENCE BEFORE GOD

Exodus 9:29

And Moses said unto him (Pharaoh), As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that you may know how that the earth is the LORD's.

John:15:7-8

7. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you. 8. Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be my disciples.

1 John 3:22-24

22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24 And he that keeps his commandments dwells in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

Some obstacles to prayers being answered

Doubting / lacking faith (James 1:6)

Being double-minded (James 1:8)

Asking for selfish gain (James 4:3)

Being a sinner, rebellious, with hardness and impenitence of heart
(John 9:31; Romans 2:5-6)

Walking in the flesh, not in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16)

Having pride rather than humility before God (James 4:6; Matthew 18:4)

Not considering fasting when so directed (Matthew 17:21)

A few considerations in seeking favor from God as his children

1 Peter 5:5-11

5 Likewise, you younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and **be clothed with humility: for God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble.** 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 **Casting all your care upon him (trust);** for he cares for you. 8 **Be sober, be vigilant;** because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom **resist steadfast in the faith (do spiritual warfare *),** knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10 **But the God of all grace, who has called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered a while, make you perfect (mature/complete), stablish, strengthen, settle you.** 11 **To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The opposition and our wrestling (Ephesians 6:12) are not a matter of speculation. It's a reality that does not cease. So let prayer not cease either (Matthew 26:41 says "watch and pray").

Romans 16:19-20

19 For your **obedience** is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you **wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.** 20 **And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.**

Mark 11:23-24

23 Truly, I say to you, whoever says unto this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

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