

Coming Full Circle

7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matt 7:7-10

Childhood is a fabulous time. It's when everything is new for the first time; imaginations come easily and needs are met, by loving, nurturing parents, even without ever asking. You haven't become hardened by sin or addicted to cynicism. It's easy to believe what you hear because you haven't been burned by false promises and failed relationships. As you grow physically, every day, you are like a sponge, absorbing all information on many different levels. It's an explosive time of information, punctuated by great periods of fun and games...on top of that, it is expected you will 'play!'

Then, before you know it, you long to become an adult with all its rights and privileges. Sadly, you eventually learn, 'childhood was really 'the good ol' days!' ...Never to be reclaimed, as it once were, ever again. "Preschoolers are children who disappear into adults." **The words of Jesus are directing us toward coming full circle! Go back to when you were a child! Your skin may have been stretched and worn out, but who you are on the inside, spiritually can be the same once again!**

1. The position to maintain v7

As a child...who enjoys asking for what they want, seeking what they are looking for, knocking on locked doors, and loves receiving presents!

Stay Dependent...it's easy to stay dependent as a child when you're a child.

Stay Needy...

When we are children, it's easy to ask, seek and knock. As adults, not so much...**but why?**

1. We confuse age with spiritual maturity.
2. We confuse experience with discernment
3. We confuse knowledge with faith.
4. We confuse submission with entitlement

2. The performance to repeat v7

Each verb is a present active imperative second person plural

Ask, but keep on asking...

Seek, but keep on seeking...

Knock, but keep on knocking...

"I ask you to ask..."

Why? So, God will finally hear? No, He heard the first time. **1. To stay in the position of 'childlikeness'**...ever known a child who only asked once for something they really wanted?

2. To remind yourself daily that only the Lord has the answer you need. You don't want to have yourself or someone else falsely fabricate a path for your future.

3. To maintain fellowship with God daily. Haven't you noticed that children who want something from their parents, stay very close to them...at least until they get what they want? The Lord wants you to stay close to Him!

3. The promise to claim v8

You will receive when you ask, seek and knock ...but maybe not what you are asking for, but something better or when you've been seeking it, but in the right time or maybe the perfect door will be opened and not the one on which you've been focused.

You will get an answer! You will not be ignored! You will not be pushed aside! He knows you are there. You don't have to raise the volume of your emotion or voice.

4. The posture to regain v7-11

So, how does an adult rebirth his childhood as a believer?

1. Ask permission for everything first v7
2. Enjoy the experience of finding what you are looking for.
3. Never be discouraged by locked doors.
4. Resolve for yourself:

1. I'm a child of God and He loves me!

2. God will give what is best for me at the right time!

3. What the Father gives me is always better than anyone else could give!

4. Though the Father is in heaven, He is actively involved in my life here!

Ring around the rosy, pockets full of posies....Ollie, ollie ocean, free, free, free...Red rover, red rover, let.....(say your name), come over! Will you come over? Come full circle?