

Grace Communication 8 – Asking Communication

a study for the Gulf Coast Baptist Church Bible Institute

Winter session 2021-22 by Steve Thomas

Introduction

The death of Christ brought about certain results. Not the least of which are related to how believers communicate with the Father. Follow the progression of truth found in the epistles: Jesus Christ Is Seated at the Right Hand of God the Father (Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3). Jesus Christ Is the Source of a New and Living Way (Hebrews 10:19, 20). Therefore We Enter with Boldness (Hebrews 10:19). Jesus Christ Was a Sufficient Sacrifice for Sin. His Blood Was Placed on the Altar in Heaven (Hebrews 9:23, 24). Jesus Christ Is a Sympathetic High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16). God Is Now Seated on a Throne of Grace (Hebrews 4:16). Every Believer Is Made a Priest (1 Peter 2:5, 9). This progression puts the believer in a privileged state concerning the ability to speak the Father. Christ ended the teacher-disciple relationship in the upper room. This act ushered the believer into a new situation. Asking communication reflects this in the clearest way. The “abiding” Christian acts in the character of Christ, because of the Crosswork of Christ, and through the power of Christ.

The Ratification of aiteo Communication for Grace Believers

John 16:24 shows a Dual Change in Communication - vs. 23. First, the Disciple-Teacher relationship was to cease. Then it can be seen that the manner of asking was to change, no longer were the disciples to ask Christ for anything. They were to direct their request to the Father.

There is a distinct conversion from OT principles to NT principles with this method of communication. The use of the term “hitherto” marks a clear change. There was now a new mode of asking, with new results to follow.

Definition

ἀιτημα Asking is the believer’s communication of a known need for himself. The normal meaning of the word *aiteo* is the asking for something by a lesser being of a superior or greater being. This is essential for the believer to understand in his communication to the Father. The form of this word is found 88 times in scriptures, most of which are not being used to describe communication to the Godhead.

The Addressee of Asking

Asking communication is only addressed to the Father. John 15:16; Eph 3:13-16; 1 John 3:22. This type of communication is the believer’s right initiated in John 16:23-26. The disciples had been asking as equals as the friends of Jesus. But that relationship was going away with Christ’s exit from the earth’s scene. The disciples were about to be baptized into the Body of Christ. This position was the replacement for the earthly

relationship that Jesus had with his disciples. They did not understand this change, but the Holy Spirit would make them understand in the future (16:13).

The Approach of Asking

The believer is to ask in Jesus' name and according to his desirous will. The name of Jesus refers to his character and Person. One must ask in the character and person of Christ in order to be heard John 14:13,14. *"Praying in His Name means a recognition of one's self as a living part of Christ and, therefore, limited by the leading of the Holy Spirit in the subject of 'asking prayer' to those things in direct line with God's will, which always result in the Father being glorified."* (from H. L. Schafer, classroom notes)

Asking communication is always for a specific thing for oneself. John 15:7,16; 16:23-26; James 1:5, 1 John 3:22. Phil 4:6-7. These are examples of the Asking communication in the dispensation of Grace.

The Answer and Agent of Asking

Asking communication done properly always receives a positive answer in God's timing. 1 John 5:14-15. The Father hears the communication and the Son is the agent by which the answer is accomplished. God the Son accomplishes the task so the Father will be glorified by the provision of the thing asked for. John 14:13-14

As is seen in Praise and Worship communication, an understanding of the character (NAME) of God is necessary for proper asking communication. James 4:1-4 shows an example of believers who asked yet did not receive. If we are not asking according to the character of the Son, in the Fruit of the Spirit, we will not experience the truths expressed above.

Conclusion

This type of communication must be done by the abiding Christian in the "character and Person of Christ." There should be no uncertainty in this communication for the abiding believer. He should know that when he asks for something specific for himself, he will receive it. If a believer asks for something for himself and does not receive it, he must reevaluate his communication and attempt to discover whether or not it was done according to Biblical principles. When the believer asks in Jesus' name, Jesus Christ will do the thing asked, resulting in greater works than He did when He was on earth (John 14:12). The believer needs only ask once. If he is not heard, he is to place himself at the disposal of the Holy Spirit so that His asking will conform to the character of Christ. The proper order for this type of communication is to address the request to the Father, in the name of the Son by the leading and enabling of the Holy Spirit.