

ASK and RECEIVE (2)

1 Jn 5:14ff

When we talk about the topic of asking/prayer/praying in faith...very complicated!

Do we know what we are asking? Is there disobedience in our asking? Asking the wrong thing?

That's why we looked at the foundation for our asking last week.

There is no need for us to beg, coerce, bribe or trick our heavenly Father.

He is not an unrighteous judge, and we are not powerless widows.

He is a heaven loving heavenly Father who already knows what we need of before we ask.

He has already given to us the keys to the kingdom

He has already raised us up together with Him and we are now seated with Him...

...In heavenly places, far above all principality and power.

We work from salvation, *not for salvation*.

Do not build our foundation, *on the foundation of Christ*

Do not work for justification, *are justified and now we work*.

PRAYER IS COMMUNION

The most used word for prayer in NT is proseuchomai: to wish or desire toward something.

Not the act of speaking a prayer necessarily,

A heartfelt desire or wish for something. (Sound strange)

Nearly every time you see prayer, pray, praying in the NT it is this word. (85x...)

PRAYER IS ASKING

The second most used word is deesis: to ask. (18x...)

One small last usage is to crave from James 4 and here! To crave.

Such a deep desire that you almost appear to be drunk.

That means that 83% of the time prayer is communion, compared to 17% asking.

So when Paul says "Pray without ceasing",

Commune without ceasing! Keep desiring, wishing, communing.

Twice, we are told to link the two (Eph 6, Php 4): prayer and supplication.

So asking is NOT wrong, it is simply the outgrowth of communion, and based in communion.

PRAYER IS A PROCESS (Not a thing, exercise, duty, formula) It is the outflow of relationship.

-I'm worried about the future.

-Jesus says: Take no thought for tomorrow, what you should eat, wear...KNOWS...before ask!

Do I need to pray about my worry, or do I claim my position in Christ...His words!

-I'm anxious about something. Anxiety, tense...

-Peace I leave with you my peace I give you, not as the world gives...

Do I ask for peace, or do I simply claim what has already been given to me?

-I feel so alone. No one likes me, everyone hates me...

-I will never leave you nor forsake you; Lo I am with you always, to the end of the age...

Do I need to pray about that, or claim His presence that I already have?

So asking is not wrong, it's just many times we turn this pyramid upside down.

When Jesus went on the mountain to pray all night,

I don't believe he had a list of 327 things that he was bombarding the father with.

He was communing.

PRAYER HAS REQUIREMENTS

He sees prayer as having a wide scope for he speaks of asking anything, but he immediately qualifies this with "according to his will."

Prayer is not a device for inducing God to change his mind and do what we want.

It is bringing His will into our earthly realm.

Requirements for asking:

- According to His will (1 Jn 5:14)
This is where position and communion help! As we are in His presence, He will filter out and add to our asking
- In the name of Jesus (Jn. 14:14)
- Offered by those who abide in Christ (Jn. 15:7),
- In faith (Mk. 11:24)
- Must forgive those who have offended us (Mk. 11:25);
- It must be accompanied by obedience (1 Jn. 3:22),
- It must not be for the gratification of one's passions (Jas. 4:3).

OK, the bottom 4 do not count...(on a separate screen)...

Best example is Php 4:

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report,
if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

There's your communion!

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound.

Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry,
both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

Now you Philippians know that no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you.

For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.

Then concludes with...

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

If I am not giving, tithing, sowing seed financially...Can I pray, "Lord help me pay me bills?"

He gives seed to the sower...If I am not sowing, can I receive seed?

As we continue in communion with Him, His Spirit will refine us; direct and re-direct;

Purge us of our desires Replace our desire with His desire

Open our eyes... Open our deaf ears to hear new things

We will end up asking differently; speaking differently, and receiving differently.