

ASK!

Matt 7.7ff

First you just can't miss the really cool acronym:

A is for ask;

S is for seek;

K is for knock.

Some wonderful things to note: The overall progression of this A-S-K...

Important, because if we do not spend time in the *asking and seeking*, we may end up knocking on the wrong door!

Then we bang the door down, and wonder why we're in the mess.

If we are patient and are seeking, and listening, then *he will direct us to the right door*.

So when certain doors close, we don't get frustrated! We just keep seeking and knocking.

You've heard the expression before: Every prayer request has an answer. *Yes, No or wait*.

First aspect is progression of direction.

Much like directions when you travel: I want to drive to the Grand Canyon...begin with the broad map, then it begins to narrow...

You move from a broad beginning and end up at a specific point.

There's the broad "asking" in his presence; in your prayer closet...asking...

Maybe you are in the middle of problem, life-question; seeking a direction.

Then we begin to seek which direction to go. Do I go to the left, ...to the right. Do I stand and wait...OR do I step back.

Then you begin to move through the map, and the map begins to shrink:

Location by location, you get nearer to your goal: that door that you knock on!

Perhaps it is a progression of activity.

We begin with the quiet (sometimes not so quiet) asking. Not Moving. Not changing direction. Waiting and watching and praying!

We then move to pressing...then to persistent opening.

I can picture this as beginning in a time in our prayer closet,

sitting in his presence, conversing with him in our tree stand during deer season,

driving down the road, taking a walk in the woods ; maybe wrestling early in morning or late at night

THEN after a time, we press through circumstances, move in certain directions.

We're no longer sitting in our prayer closet, we're now moving.

Then comes the final stage of putting our fist to a door and knocking, putting our hand to a doorknob and opening a closed door.

But I believe the biggest thought re: A-S-K is that it represents a journey of discovery!

A journey where we are dependent on him. Our source!

Our father...which art in heaven...show me; lead me; direct me; care for me; protect me; provide for me...

When this journey leads me through the valley of the shadow death; I will not fear!

Our journey begins by viewing him as our source,
Then living a life of seeking his presence,

Perhaps this is an extended time seeking for divine healing.
Or a short season of seeking him for employment or provision in some way.
Then joyfully opening the door to his provision.
Or a potentially long season of waiting for loved ones to accept Christ.

But it's a wonderful journey with my Heavenly Father. So enjoy the journey!

So here is what I know in my journey with Him:

I KNOW MY FATHER LOVES ME

How? Jn 3.16...

This is how much God loved the world:

He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: *so that no one need be destroyed*; by believing in him, anyone can have a lasting life.
God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was.
He came to help, *to put the world right again*.

How about John 15?

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; ***but I have called you friends***,
for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

I KNOW MY FATHER WANTS THE BEST FOR ME

Luke's version ends with: FEAR NOT little flock...

How sublime and touching a contrast between this tender and pitying appellation,

"Little flock" (in the original a double diminutive) and the "good pleasure" is a double positive...

BUT I HAVE THE KINGDOM!

I KNOW MY FATHER WILL ANSWER ME

Big picture: He is telling us to ASK him!

He is either playing the game OR he really means that we are supposed to ask him.

I believe he's challenging us as his friends, brothers and children

to ask largely to seek for big things and to knock on big doors!

Call until me and I will answer you and show...GREAT and MIGHTY...

I KNOW this: He will not answer in the way...when...how...but he will heal, deliver, save and show me...

GREAT things

MIGHTY things

That I DO NOT KNOW!!