

How to A-S-K in Prayer

Elements of prevailing prayer

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you”
(Matt. 7:7).

Asking

Synopsis

Greek word: *aiteō* (*ateo*)

- the act of making a request(s) of another
- To make a request or demand something from somebody
- To plead for
- To claim
- Entreat
- Supplicate
- Consult

We usually ask for what we need

- What we need and do not have
- Its funny though how many of us do not even ask – yet we are in desperate situations
- Cannot even go before God – the source of everything, our sustainer – our father to ask.

Asking is an expression of dependence

- When we ask the father – we are saying to Him – daddy, we depend on you.

Asking can be:

- For yourself as an individual
- Or on behalf of another
- Jesus encourages believers to ask things of God in prayer,

By the way – asking does not apply only to God

- Also applies to human relationships

We need to learn how to ask for help

- We all need a bit of help sometimes.
 - Sometimes things can seem overwhelming,
 - and you may feel you can't cope.
 - You may simply just be having a bad day,
 - or you may have an ongoing mental health problem that needs support.
 - The important thing is not to try to cope on your own.
 - Ask for help
 - But it can be difficult to know how, or who, to ask.
 - Asking for help is really easy for some and the hardest thing in the world for others.
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- Don't be proud – ask for help
 - Don't try to look cool and collected – ask for help
 - Are you lost, are you broke, is the burden you are carrying too heavy for you?
 - It's better to ask than to prevent yourself from losing face
 - You don't have salt – ask your neighbour

Yes – I know people can be tough and nasty

At least we have God – even then – we don't ask

Song – take it to the Lord in prayer:

Some things we have not
Because we ask not
When we have a friend who cares
Oh what peace we often forfeit
Oh what needless pain we bear
Oh what peace we often forfeit
Oh what needless we bear
Oh what peace we often forfeit
Oh what needless pain

Oh what needless pain
Oh what needless pain we bear
We should never be discouraged when we
Take it to the Lord in prayer

- You cannot do it on your own – ask God

Most of the people that received healing from Jesus

- Dared to ask for help
- Ignoring all the people around them
- Blind Bartimaeus – shouted at the top of his lungs – was not ashamed of his status
- Jairus – the ruler of the synagogue – put all his position aside
- Acknowledged that he could not do it on his own and therefore needed help

John 16:24

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

ASKING AS AN ASPECT OF PRAYER

1. General petitions

Matthew 7:7–11 (ESV)

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 *For everyone who asks receives*

9 *Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? **10** Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? **11** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!*

Ask for provisions

- Give us this day our daily bread

Instead of asking – we worry

Philippians 4:6 (ESV) — 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Hannah's testimony

1 Samuel 1:20 (ESV)

And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the LORD."

2. Frequent requests for guidance or insight

1 Samuel 23:1–2 (ESV)

Now they told David, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are robbing the threshing floors." **2** Therefore David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah."

2 Samuel 2:1 (ESV)

After this David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron."

James 1:5 (ESV)

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

THE GROUNDS FOR ASKING

1. In the name of Jesus Christ

Jn 14:13 -14

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[a] anything in my name, I will do it.

John 16:23–24(ESV)

Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. **24** Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

2. We abide in him and His word in you – fruitful – if He is benefiting from your life

John 15:5-7

I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't

produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.

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⁷ If you remain in Me and My words remain in you [that is, if we are vitally united and My message lives in your heart], ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you.

Vs.16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

3. Ask according to God's will

1 John 5:14–15 (ESV)

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. **15** And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

4. Ask In faith

- We are God's children
- He wants us to ask in childlike faith

Matthew 21:22 (ESV)

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

James 1:5-6 (ESV)

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

5. Ask with the right motive - properly to make use of what we receive

James 4:3

You ask [God for something] and do not receive it, because you ask ^[c]with wrong motives [out of selfishness or with an unrighteous agenda], so that [when you get what you want] you may spend it on your [hedonistic] desires. (passions)

AND IT WILL BE GIVEN

Vs 8 – everyone that asks receives

Greek word: *didōmi* (*dithomi*)

- Granted
- Provided
- Offered
- Bestowed
- Become yours