

ASKING - THE MISSING LINK

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, **how much more** shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? -Matthew 7:7-11

ASK to make inquiry into; request; demand
DEMAND to ask for with proper authority; **claim as a right**; charge with a commission
SEEK to go in search or quest of: to try to find or discover by searching or questioning; try to obtain; try to attempt; explore
KNOCK to strike a sounding blow with the fist, knuckles, or anything hard, esp. on a door, window, or the like, as in seeking admittance, calling attention, or giving a signal: to knock on the door before entering

ASK → **SEEK** → **KNOCK**

WHY YOU DON'T ASK

1. **AFRAID (FEAR)**
 - a. of REJECTION
 - b. of EXCLUSION
 - c. of ISOLATION
2. **ARROGANCE (PRIDE)**
 - a. I 'KNOW IT ALL'
 - b. I won't ask 'THEM'
 - c. I'll look 'STUPID'
3. **APATHY (PASSIVE)**
 - a. You are INDIFFERENT (I don't care)
 - b. You are LAZY (too much work)
 - c. You are PESSIMISTIC (It won't help or improve anything)
4. **ASSURED (NO CONFIDENCE)**
 - a. of SELF
 - b. of the PERSON you're asking
 - c. of the ACCURACY of information you receive
 - d. of your ABILITY to execute information received
5. **APTITUDE (KNOWLEDGE)**
 - a. you don't know WHAT to ask
 - b. you don't know WHO to ask
 - c. you don't know HOW to ask
 - d. you don't know WHEN to ask

WHY YOU DON'T RECEIVE

- You don't **BELIEVE** (Matt 13:53-58, 17:14-20, Mark 9:14-29, Heb 3:13-19)
- You asked **WRONG** (James 4:2-3)
- You **RECEIVED**, and forgot! (Numbers 14:28, Genesis 32)
- Its **NOT TIME YET** (Deut 32:25, Ecc 3:1, Hab 2:1-3, 1Pet 5:6-7)

THE PROCESS OF ASKING

ASK (THE DEMAND) → '**MAKES THE NOISE**', creates, defines, identifies, authorizes
SEEK (THE JOURNEY) → '**MOVES THE FEET**', searches, discovers, reveals, removes
KNOCK (THE CONFLICT) → '**FIGHTS THE BATTLE**', confronts, accesses, possesses, prevails

THE TEXT

1. ASK AND **IT** SHALL BE GIVEN
 - a. **what is the IT?**
 - i. The **ASSURANCE** that you will 'get it'
 - ii. The **AUTHORITY** needed to 'get it'
2. SEEK AND YE SHALL **FIND**
 - a. **what shall I FIND?**
 - i. The **ANSWER** your 'request'
 - ii. The **AFFIRMATION** to your 'request'
3. **KNOCK** AND THE DOOR SHALL BE OPENED
 - a. **Why must I KNOCK?**
 - i. 'It' has been your **ANSWER**
 - ii. The **AFFIRMATION**
 - b. **What is the DOOR?**
 - i. The **ACCESS**
 - ii. The **ASCENSION**

KEY VERSES

Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, **ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.** -Isaiah 45:11

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for **your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.** -Matthew 6:8

Ye have not chosen me, **but I have chosen you**, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. -John 15:16

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. -John 16:23-24

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that worketh in us,** -Ephesians 3:20

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. -James 1:5

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, **yet ye have not, because ye ask not.** Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. -James 4:2-3