

“Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance but laying hold of his willingness”
Martin Luther

Asking God for Good Things
Matthew 7:7-11

Matthew 7:7-11 (NIV)

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

I. The Invitation

Verse 7 – "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

II. The Incentives

Verse 8 – "For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

- It will be given to you.
- You will find.
- It will be opened to you.
- The one asking receives.
- The one seeking finds.
- The one knocking gets an open door.
- Your Father gives you good things.

1 John 5:14-15 (NIV)

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us— whatever we ask— we know that we have what we asked of him.

III. The Illustration

Verse 9-10 – "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

- God is available to us at all times.
- ALL of His children are included in every promise.
- God is eager to show us that He is good.

John Piper

When you pause to consider that God is infinitely strong and can do all that He pleases, and that He is infinitely righteous so that He only does what is right, and that He is infinitely good so that everything He does is perfectly good, and that He is infinitely wise so that he always knows perfectly what is right and good, and that He is infinitely loving so that in all His strength and righteousness and goodness and wisdom He raises the eternal joy of His loved ones as high as it can be raised—when you pause to consider this, then the lavish invitations of this God to ask Him for good things, with the promise that He will give them, is unimaginably wonderful.

