

**Pathways of Prayer**  
**Lord Teach Us to Pray**  
**ASK**  
**by Pastor Kervin Raugust**

**Jesus makes bold statements about prayer!** In Luke 11 Jesus made such statement - <sup>9</sup>“So here is what I say to you. Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> Everyone who asks will receive. He who searches will find. And the door will be opened to the one who knocks.

What do we make of this declaration in view of our human experience? When we ASK in prayer we often end up feeling disillusioned because the results are, disappointing. The real question surrounding our human experience with “unanswered prayer” is this - “Is the problem with God or is the problem in our asking?” If the problem is in the asking then how do we get it right?

**The ASK of prayer speaks to three distinctions:**

**Ask...** When we ask we are to remember the place from which we ask. Being we are in Christ we ask out of relationship with Jesus as King. The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:18 “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may *know the hope* to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious *promised inheritance* for the saints.” Jesus has an inheritance in mind for all who are in Him. This inheritance is ours to claim because of the relationship we enjoy with Christ. Asking begins out of relationship with Jesus and grows as we claim our promised inheritance in Christ as saints. Living from the place of relationship ensures when we ask our asking is in alignment with His mind and purposes. Asking in alignment, Jesus taught, guarantees what we ask for “will be given” (Luke 11:9).

**Seek ...** Seeking speaks of searching with eagerness until it appears. The picture here is one of a child, whom Jesus held up as the way we are to be, looking with eagerness for the promised surprise. A child has no thought of a promised surprise not appearing. They hope with certainty watching and waiting for the promise to come true. *We are to ask of Jesus with the same eagerness and expectancy that what He promises will come through.*

**Knock...** Knocking is about persistent consistency. The parable Jesus used in Luke 11:5-8 is easily misunderstood if we think prayer is about knocking on heaven’s door until God gets so irritated with our asking that He gives us what we want in order to make us stop pestering Him. The Father, Jesus explained in Luke 11:11-13 is a good Father who generously gives us His children good gifts. In our asking and seeking the Father, in His waiting, works in us to deepen our relationship with Him. This explains the strange conclusion Jesus speaks of in Luke 11:13, “how much more will the Father in heaven surprise you by giving the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?” The good gift the Father gives, out of sight behind the prayer room door, is the gift of

Himself. God in us opens the door for Holy Spirit to give us, so the Apostle Peter writes, "Everything we need for life and godliness " (II Peter 1:3-4).

**The Path Less Travelled by...**

The path less travelled by is the path of understanding that asking is more than getting what we ask for. It is about trusting the heart of the Father to give us only what is good for us! The best gift is receiving Holy Spirit in increasing measure. Holy Spirit in us upgrades our capacity to ask in alignment with the will of God.