

Mt 7:7-12

Sermon: “The Amazing Offer of Empowering Grace!” (Part II)

- I. To “**ask in faith**” is not merely the practice of “mustering up” enough “self-confidence” that God will do for you what you want (regardless of whether or not it’s consistent with His goals, and what is truly best for you)!

It is (instead) a “believing trust” where we lay hold of (and plead before God) one of His own promises (as recorded in Scripture)!

It is not an expectation that He will grant everything we demand, but an assurance that He will grant whatever He has promised (in Scripture) to give!

1 John 5:14 puts it like this:

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything **according to His will** He hears us!” (1 Jn 5:14).*

- And the point is: We’re only asking “**according to His will**” when we ask in faith for those things that God knows will be for our good (by His, perfect, all-knowing, standard)!

II. R. A. Torrey once wrote:

“While we have no claims upon God because of any goodness or service of our own, Jesus Christ has infinite claims upon God! And He has given us the right to approach God in His name. And we ought, therefore to go boldly to God and ask great things of God! Oftentimes when we pray and ask something that seems to be pretty big, the devil will come and say to us, “You ought not to pray for anything so great as that! You are such a poor Christian, that is more than you deserve!” Yes, it is more than we deserve, but it is not as much as Jesus Christ deserves! Time and again Satan has said to me when I have dared to ask something of God that seemed very large, “Oh, don’t dare to ask so much as that! You are not worthy of anything so great as that!” And I have replied, “I know that I am not worthy of anything at all! But Jesus Christ is worthy of that! And I am asking not on the ground of my claims upon God, but on the ground of His!” And sometimes as I think of how precious the name of Jesus Christ is to God, how He delights to honor the name of His Son, I grow very bold and ask God for great things!

Do you realize that we honor the name of Christ by asking great things in that name? Do you realize that we dishonor that name by not daring to ask great things in that name? Oh, have faith in the power of Jesus’ name! And dare to ask great things in His name!”

III. The Application of this passage is:

- 1) **Ask ... Seek ... and Knock!**
 - (In other words be very “pro-active” (and persistent) in all of the “Means of Grace”)
 - Prayer
 - Bible Study
 - Obedience
 - Etc.
- 2) **Trust** that (when you **do** become “pro-active” in Asking, Seeking, and Knocking) God will “give you” what you “ask” for, He will help you “find what you seek”, and He will “open the door” that you knock on.
 - (Only trust that (when the answer isn’t exactly what you want or when you want it) that the answer that you did get, is the best answer!
 - (Because your Heavenly Father won’t give you a snake, if you ask for a fish!).
- 3) **Therefore** ... (since God has your back) ... go out and do to others what you would have them do to you!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

If you were to apply our Lord’s command: “Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you”, (and we **must**, for it is the **essence** of Christianity) you would never again judge your neighbor unmercifully, or jump to an evil conclusion about his character, or be unwilling to overlook his sin as a mere human weakness! (One that he himself would rather not have!). Because you (yourself) desire that he would do that for you!

When we consider how we would like other men to treat us, we would want them to love and respect us, and behave towards us according to truth and justice, tempered with mercy. And we would think it only reasonable that they should do all the good they can for us without injuring themselves. We would think it wonderful if they would overlook our “human flaws” (that’s what we call sin in ourselves) and (in outward things) we would be blessed if their abundance would give way to our need for conveniences, their conveniences to our necessities, and their necessities to our extreme emergencies!

Now then, our Lord is instructing us: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”!

This will “mark” you as a **genuine** child of God!

But let it be observed: No one can walk by this standard (nor has anyone, from the beginning of the world), no one can truly “love his neighbor as himself”, unless he first loves God.

And no one can love God unless he believes (savingly) in Christ! (Unless he has redemption through His blood, and the Spirit of God bearing witness with his spirit that he is a child of God!)

Faith (therefore) is still the root of all! Still we must say to every sinner (and to ourselves in every sin): “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”!

Then (and only then) will you love the Lord Your God (because He first loved you)! And then (and only then) will you truly desire to “love your neighbor as yourself”!

And then it will be your glory and your greatest joy to exercise and strive to increase your love to your neighbor. Not barely by abstaining from what is hurtful to others (every unkind word, thought, and/or action) but by showing all the kindness to every person that you would desire them to show to you!

(Mt 7:7-12); (Lk 11:2-3); (Lk 11:5-8); (Lk 11:9-13); (Ps 81:10); (Prov 21:13); (Mk 8:36); (Eph 3:20-21); (Jer 29:13); (Ps 27:14); (Rom 8:22-25); (James 1:2-4); (Jam 3:25-33); (Jn 2:23); (Jn 2:24-25); (Ps 103:13); (Isa 40:15); (Mal 3:17); (Phil 4:10-20)