

Asking and Receiving (in a nutshell)

Many would love for it to work this way all the time - 1 Chron 4:9-10 - 9 Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." 10 **Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain."** And GOD GRANTED HIS REQUEST.

God wants us to ask Him, because He is the one who gives "good gifts" - Matt 7:7-11 - 7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For **everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds;** and to **him who knocks, the door will be opened.** 9 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 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!

True faith in God is a must - Mark 11:22-25 - 22 "**Have faith in God,**" Jesus answered. 23 "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Faith is the item that truly connects us with God - Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who EARNESTLY SEEK him.

There are major qualifiers to receive what you ask for

It must be in Christ's name - John 16:23-26 - 23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. 25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf.

We have to stay in Christ and his Word in us - John 15:5-8 -5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. **IF a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit;** apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 **IF you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.** 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Bear Spiritual fruit - John 15:16-17 - 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. THEN the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Obey God and I will be in Him and He in me - 1 John 3:21-24 - 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, **BECAUSE we obey his commands and do what pleases him.** 23 And this is his command: to **believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,** and **to love one another as he commanded us.** 24 **Those who obey his commands LIVE IN HIM, and HE IN THEM.** And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Qualifier for husbands - 1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Even Jesus was heard because of his relationship with God - Heb 5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and **he was heard BECAUSE OF HIS REVERENT SUBMISSION.**

Understand Why God may say no

We Doubt - Matt 21:21-22-21 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and DO NOT DOUBT, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. 22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

We don't ask and/or our motives are wrong - James 4:1-3 - What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from **YOUR DESIRES THAT BATTLE WITHIN YOU?** 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because YOU DO NOT ASK GOD. 3 When you ask, **you do not receive, because you ASK WITH WRONG MOTIVES,** that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Not within God's Will - 1 John 5:14-15 - 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him.

Examples of Asking and Receiving No as the response

Paul's request to remove a thorn - 2 Cor 12:7-9 - 7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 **THREE TIMES I PLEADED WITH THE LORD TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME.** 9 But he said to me, "**MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Jesus' request to have the cup taken from Him - Luke 22:41-43 - 41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 "**FATHER, IF YOU ARE WILLING, TAKE THIS CUP FROM ME; YET NOT MY WILL, BUT YOURS BE DONE.**" 43 **An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.**

Pray wisely - Prov 30:8-9 - 8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. 9 Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

Pray and don't give up - Luke 18:1-8 -1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that **THEY SHOULD ALWAYS PRAY AND NOT GIVE UP.** 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'" 4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'" 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?" 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"