

## **TUESDAY AUGUST 24**

**A-S-K**

**Luke 11:10**

God has no problem with us coming before Him and making requests. In fact, we are encouraged to do so. However, the asking should not be for selfish reasons but rather requests coming from a heart which contain the right motives. James addressed these situations when he said, "You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your evil desires." (James 4:3 HCSB)

When Jesus spoke of the three components to our requests (which are asking, seeking, and knocking), it is interesting that the first letter of each of these spells out the word **ASK**. That says the invitation is open to be persevering in our asking. That is why the meaning is to keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking until we receive His response. We will receive when it is according to His will and timing. That is His promise. "If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you." The key is our life in Him and His Word being our life and standard...it is then that our asking will be appropriate.

As we previously mentioned, our asking, seeking, and knocking is not a blank check God gives to us to fill in whatever we selfishly desire. Throughout His ministry, we see where He gave explanations and conditions which apply to this promise.

1. "The merciful are blessed, for they will be shown mercy." (Matthew 5:7 HCSB)  
Mercy should be a character quality within us.
2. "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." (Matthew 6:12)  
We must be willing to forgive as Jesus did.
3. Our prayers and requests are not to draw attention to us. "But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Matthew 6:7 HCSB)
4. Our requests should remain submitted to His will. "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10 HCSB)

The ultimate desire of any requests we make is that what God does in His answering bring glory and honor to His name. All the focus should always be drawn to Him and nothing else. That motive of heart is what pleases Him. "Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." (John 14:13 HCSB)