

Ask

From Every Word: Overflowing, Transformative Life
By C. D. Hildebrand

Again and again God invites us to participate with Him in seeing miracles take place. He could have simultaneously appeared to every person on earth and told them to believe in His Son, but instead, He commands us to **speak** the gospel to every creature and gives them the choice of how they will respond. We share the glad tidings of good things from our good God; He does the miracle part, moving lovingly on the hearts of mankind, souls are saved, and their lives are turned around.

Romans 10:14-15

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*“How beautiful are the feet of those
who preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

God used Peter and John to tell the lame man begging for alms at the temple to rise and walk. They **spoke**; the man believed; God did the miracle, and the man went walking, leaping, and praising God. When the crowd went to worship Peter and John, they insisted that it was by faith in the name of Jesus, **not by their power or holiness**, that made the man whole. They spoke the truth, and God was glorified.

**He tells us to speak. Why?
Why doesn't God just *do* something if He wants it done?**

The answer to this question is not complicated. We need to understand that God is the One who determines how things will be done in His kingdom. He *wants* us to be partakers with Him in His work on earth. When we contemplate this, we see it is actually quite glorious.

Will we simply believe Him, doing as He commands, and see miracles take place? Or will we wait around assuming, “If it is His will, He will do it,” and then continue to see nothing happen? Will we speak to the mountains in our lives as He has instructed us, or pull out our spoons and keep on digging?

Let us embrace His principles so that we may again see miracles take place. Let us speak to mountains in His name as He instructed us to do.

Matthew 7:7-8

*“**ASK**, and it **WILL** be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For **EVERYONE WHO ASKS RECEIVES**, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*

“Jesus, why do You have to say such extreme things? Why say ‘everyone’ and speak so affirmatively?”

Think about it. Jesus did not say, “Ask. What do you have to lose? I *might* answer you. Almost everyone who asks gets something. Roll the dice and see what happens.”

No, He said, “**EVERYONE** who **ASKS RECEIVES**.” It is entirely astounding that Jesus was so definitive in His statements about asking. Here are some other examples.

Matthew 18:19

*“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning **ANYTHING** that they **ASK**, it **WILL BE DONE** for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”*

Will God answer prayers that just *you* pray? Yes, of course. He said, “Anyone who asks receives.” So why does Jesus say, “If two of you agree concerning **ANYTHING** they ask, it will be done for them?”

I have no idea, to be honest. We could get philosophical and say something like, “There is power in unity.” Ok, maybe, but for me, I just take His words at face value. My husband and I often take time to agree in prayer simply because Jesus promised it would be done for us. God honors our faith in His promises.

However, it is important to point out that He did not say, “The *more* of you who pray, the more likely I will answer,” as if we all together bombard heaven and beg Him to do something and He will be more inclined to answer that way—as if He is against us, not for us. He said if “two of you agree.” That is not to say that we cannot join together in larger numbers to pray, just as long as we do not have the thought in the back of our minds that it is by our high numbers and long prayers that we get better results.¹

Christ lives in all Christians, so why does Jesus say that if two or three of us gather together in His name, He is with us? Again, who definitively knows? It is just the way He set things up. He wants us to gather together and two or three (or more, we assume) bring about an added presence of God. Maybe all those rivers of life flowing out of us merge into something bigger.

¹ Mt. 6:7

It should go without saying that "anything" does not include evil or something contrary to God's will, but I must mention those because the temptation arises to say something ridiculous like, "Oh, so you mean if I ask God for a billion dollars or to kill someone for me, He will do it?" Let us be serious, please.

Whatever You ASK

1 John 5:14-15

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, 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 the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

Notice that even though John limits our prayers to "His will," he says, "whatever" we **ASK** that is His will, He hears us and it will be given to us. That is why it is important to know what His will is. I covered this in Every Thought, which is Book One in this series. We are instructed to know what the will of God is. Yes, the Holy Spirit can speak to us, but we also should study to get this information. When we know His will and ask according to His will, "anything" we **ASK** believing, we will receive.

Matthew 21:22

*And **WHATEVER** things you **ASK** in prayer, believing, you **WILL** receive."*

Hours before Jesus' death, He made some amazing statements. Not only did He give a new commandment in which He instructed His disciples to love one another as He had loved them, but He also repeatedly told them to **ASK**.

John 14:12-14

*"Most **ASSUREDLY**, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And **WHATEVER** you **ASK** in My name, that I **WILL** do, that the **FATHER** may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you **ASK ANYTHING** in My name, I **WILL** do it."*

There is some disagreement among Bible teachers as to whether "greater" works means "greater" as in more amazing or "greater" as in more in number. Either way you look at it, that is an astounding statement. Reading through the gospels reveals some very amazing works by Jesus, and as far as numbers go, it says that He healed "multitudes." To think that we could even *equal* what He did is shocking, let alone *exceed*.

Jesus' death and resurrection brought salvation to us and destroyed the enemy, leaving us free to do greater works.

“And WHATEVER
you ASK in my
name that WILL I do
that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

The above statement is very powerful. Jesus could have left it at that, and we would all be amazed, but He reiterates so that we will not forget.

“If you ASK
ANYTHING in My name,
I WILL do it.”

Did Jesus say, "Sometimes I will do it; sometimes I will not"? No, He said, "I will do it." He did not say, "Some of the things you ask in my name I will do." He said that He would do ANYTHING we ask in His name.²

Ask and It Shall Be Done

John 15:6-7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ASK what you DESIRE, and it SHALL be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

If we abide in Him, which we do; and His words abide in us, which they do; we ASK what we desire, and it SHALL be done for us. “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit.” By THIS...by what exactly? To what fruit is Jesus referring here? He just told us. By THIS. By ASKING and RECEIVING what we desire. THIS is the good fruit. When we ask and receive, the Father is glorified.

Keep His Commandments

The word “desire” would include anything we want that is His will, and this is an excellent reason to become a student of understanding God’s will. Knowing His will gives us confidence when we pray.

There is also power in understanding that John wrote later in his life that we ASK and receive from Him because we keep His commandments. However, so many stop right there and begin to cite the Ten Commandments or the two great commandments of the law. Yet, we need not “go there.” John clearly states what those commandments are.

² Again, obviously those things that line up with the will of God

1 John 3:22-23

*And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ And this is His commandment: that we should **believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another**, as He gave us commandment.*

Do you believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ? Then you have kept that commandment. Do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ? Then you are keeping that commandment. But do you do those things that are pleasing in His sight? Look at it this way. If His commandments are to believe in Jesus and love one another, then those are the things that are pleasing in His sight. Therefore, **WHATEVER** you **ASK**, He will do.

That Your Joy May Be Full

Later on, Jesus again encourages them to ask, then affirms that if they ask, they will receive.

John 16:22-24

*"Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. ²³ And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you **ASK** the Father in My name He **WILL** give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. **ASK**, and you **WILL** receive, that your **JOY** may be full."*

An answered prayer brings fullness of joy to our hearts. When our newborn baby girl was healed of PDA³, which had kept her hospitalized for the three weeks just after birth, joy filled our hearts when we were able to bring her home completely healed. When our older daughter, at about age three, was instantly healed of food allergies, all of us were thrilled. Every single day that I wake up again without a trace of a headache, I am so thankful. Each time God blesses us financially, we are so glad. Whenever our prayers are answered, our joy is made full. Our part is to **ASK** in faith. Jesus said that we **WILL** receive.

Proverbs 13:12

*Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.*

Let us be continually amazed at how confidently Jesus promised to answer our prayers offered in faith with, "Yes!"

³ Patent ductus arteriosus

2 Corinthians 1:20

For ALL the promises of God in Him are YES, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

As if that were not enough, Paul taught that Jesus will do even more than we ask or can imagine.

Ephesians 3:20-21

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we **ASK** or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

*"Everyone
who **ASKS**
receives."*



