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ASK THE LORD

HE WILL DO IT!

(John 14:13-14)

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Introduction

Have you ever asked the LORD for anything? There was a man who was a thief. He had stolen so much in his lifetime that the Roman government felt he should be put to death. They hung him on a cross to die right along side of Jesus. This man, having lost all hope for this life, knowing he was about to die, turned to Jesus and said, "**Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!**" (Luke 23:42, NKJV). Jesus said to him, "**To day you will be with Me in Paradise!**" (Luke 23:43, NKJV).

Jesus knew that man was a thief. Jesus knew he was hated by all men. No one liked that thief. The Roman government even put him to death. BUT, he asked the LORD! And Jesus said, "**To day you will be with Me in Paradise!**" It doesn't make any difference to Jesus, what you have done in your life. It doesn't make any difference to Jesus if the whole world hates you. If you ask Him to help you He will!

BUT, what about the other man on the cross? Why didn't Jesus say to him also, "**To day you will be with Me in Paradise!**" Only because the man DID NOT ASK. Jesus would have received him if he would have asked Him!

There was a blind man who came to Jesus. Jesus said to him, "**What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?**" (Mark 10:51). The blind man said, "**Lord, that I may receive my sight.**" Jesus gave him back his sight. The only thing the man asked Jesus was, "**Lord, that I may receive my sight.**" Jesus didn't ask him if he had been good. Jesus didn't ask him if he did anything wrong in his life. Jesus didn't say, first you must do this or that! Jesus didn't really care why he was blind. Jesus healed him BECAUSE HE ASKED.

There was a man who had a child that was possessed by evil spirits. This man came to Jesus and said, "**Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child**" (Luke 9:38). Then he said, "**I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him**" (Matt. 17:16). Jesus said, "**Bring him here to Me**" (Matt. 17:17, NKJV). Jesus cast out the spirits, healed the child, and gave him to his father.

Jesus didn't ask the father, have you sinned? Have you done all things according to the Bible? Are you a good Christian? No, Jesus just said, "**Bring him here to Me!**" And Jesus healed the child. Was the child perfect in any way? Was the child without sin? Jesus never asked anything of the man or the child, all Jesus said was "**Bring him here to me,**" and Jesus healed the child.

There is nothing too hard for Jesus. There is nothing He will not do for those who come to Him. If we ask Him, He will do it for us. It doesn't make any difference if we are a thief on the cross, a person blind from our youth on up, a parent with a child possessed by evil spirits, etc., Jesus will deliver us if we ask Him. The LORD gave us His Word. God's Word is true. The LORD never

promises to do anything without being willing to do it. The Bible says in Joel 2:23, "**Whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be delivered.**" Peter said, "**It says in the book of Joel . . . Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**" (Acts 2:16,21). Peter said he was quoting what Joel said. The words saved and delivered mean the same thing.

Whatever you need! No matter what has happened in your life! No matter if you are being put to death for stealing, blind, or under the influence of spirits that cause you to do things you know you should not do; no matter what it is, **ASK the LORD!** He will DELIVER you! He will SAVE you!

Why doesn't Jesus care what you have done wrong in your life? Why will Jesus do whatever you ask Him? It's partly because it is written in the Bible, "**...The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**" (Rev. 13:8).

The LORD, even before man was created, committed Himself to pay the price on Calvary for ALL OUR SINS. Jesus did this for the thief, for the blind man, for the son who was possessed with evil spirits; and He did it for YOU TOO!

Everything you will ever receive from God is based upon the completed work of Jesus on Calvary. There are no "good works" that you can add to what God has already done for you in Christ Jesus that will help you receive "**whatsoever you ask!**"

THE LOVE OF GOD

God is love! God loves everyone! Yet, God does things for some people that He doesn't do for others. Why is it? Why does God, who loves everyone, do things for some people and not for others?

A simple way to answer that question is; God is known by some as their Father, others know Him only as God.

Most people do not understand that when they are born into this world they are not related to God. All who are born into this world are related to Adam, but not to God. Everyone born into this world is born of the flesh, but not of the Spirit (John 3:5-7). All throughout the Old Testament, no one was related to God. They had fellowship with God. God dwelt among those the LORD chose as His people because of the obedience of a few who believed the LORD. But no one was related to God in such a way that He was their true Father.

The LORD never stops loving any person who is born into this world. The LORD will forgive any person who will come to Him for forgiveness. The LORD will help anyone who will come to Him for help. God is love, a love that man cannot understand with his natural mind. A love that does not do wickedly, nor pervert judgement; but is righteous in every respect. Being that God is love He does not think the way we think. In Isaiah 55:8,9 it says,

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Being born into this world in the flesh, and not of the Spirit (John 3:6); we have a problem with our thoughts. They do not agree with the LORD'S thoughts. Our ways do not line up with His ways. Therefore, there is one thing we must do to see a change in our life. We must "Ask the LORD" to receive us as we receive Him, as our LORD and Savior.

Our relationship to God begins when we receive the life of God in us through the new birth. God adopts us into His family by Jesus Christ when we receive Jesus as our LORD (Eph. 1:4-5). This is a Spiritual birth. We receive a new spirit (Ezek. 36:26-27).

We must first become related to God by receiving Jesus as LORD. No one is born into this world with a new spirit. Even if our parents are born again Christians (children of God), we are not born into the family of God because they are. Each person, when they are born into this world are born of the flesh. Jesus said to Nicodemus,

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again (John 3:6-7).

Each individual person must receive Jesus as LORD (John 1:11-13), in order to become born of the Spirit into the family of God.

The simple truth to this is in John 3:17. It says, "**For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**" Jesus is called the second Adam, sent into this world that we might "through Him" receive a spiritual birth into the family of God. When we receive Jesus as LORD, we enter into the family of God. When we die on this earth we go to be where Jesus is, in heaven, in our new spiritual body. Our old physical body stays on earth. We leave our old physical body behind and take off into heaven in our new spiritual body.

To make it as simple as God can, it says in Romans 10:13, "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

The thief on the cross, did this. He said, "**Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!**" (Luke 23:42, NKJV). When the thief called on Jesus. Jesus received him into paradise that very same day. When anyone accepts Jesus as LORD, He receives them that very same day into the family of God. God becomes their Father, Jesus becomes their LORD.

Notice though, the thief didn't ask Jesus to heal him, or bring him down from the cross. All he asked Jesus was to remember him when He entered into His kingdom. Jesus said to him, "**To day you will be with Me in Paradise!**" (Luke 23:43, NKJV).

When Jesus said to that thief, "**To day you will be with Me in Paradise,**" it was counted unto him as being born again into the family of God. God became his Father, and Jesus became His LORD, and Savior. Why? Because He ASKED!

If you are not sure you are one of God's own children, or if you are not sure that God is your Father, do what the thief on the cross did! **Ask Jesus to receive you** into His kingdom. Ask Jesus to become your LORD and Savior.

To enter into the family of God; that God becomes your Father and Jesus becomes your LORD **you must Ask.**

For Jesus to become your Savior you need to confess Him with you mouth and believe in your heart. Then you will be saved. Romans 10:9,10 says,

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

To become a son (child) of God it tells us in John 1:11-13,
He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

This can all be done in one simple prayer to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. But, **YOU MUST ASK**, to receive eternal life and be saved. Once you ask, your name is written in "**the Book of Life**" (Rev. 20:12,15).

SAY A PRAYER LIKE THIS, OUT LOUD:

"LORD Jesus, I know that You are the Son of God. I know that You died on the cross for me. I know that God raised You from the dead.

Jesus, forgive me of all my sins, wash me clean in Your blood; that I may be the righteousness of God in You. Thank You, Jesus!

Jesus, I ask You to come into my life? Live Your life in me! Let Your will be done in me! Let the will of God be done in my life as it was in Your life. I surrender my life to You, Jesus!

You lead me by Your Spirit and I will follow to the best of my ability. I will live for You all the days of my life, as You lead me by Your Spirit.

I receive You now, as my LORD, and SAVIOR for all eternity. I will be with You here on earth, and I will be with You in heaven, forever and ever. I will give You all the Glory, it is for You that I will live forever. Amen."

Once we are born again of the Spirit, into the family of God we should get to know God as our Father also. The Children of Israel only knew the LORD God as their God; and what a great God He was to them. Oh, how much more should we know God as our Father, being born again of the Spirit! When we receive Jesus into our life as our LORD we become children of God. God the Father remains the God of all creation, but at that time in our life God also becomes our Father. With our Father being God, we must always come to Him as little children (Matt. 18:3).

Yet, through it all, there is one thing we need to do to receive from God all that He has for us. That is, **ASK**, and **RECEIVE**! James said it this way "**. . . ye have not, because ye ask not**" (James 4:2). This is one reason why some receive from God and others do not.

BELIEVE AND RECEIVE

When we ask the LORD for whatsoever we desire there are two requirements that need to be met; believe in the heart and receive without doubt or unbelief. You will find reference to these requirements in the following verses.

Mark 11:22-24 says,

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Notice that Jesus said, "**and shall not doubt in his heart.**" There is a difference between your heart and your mind. Your mind can be all messed up and you can still believe in your heart. Yet, the majority of time your mind centers upon that which is in your heart. Jesus said in Matthew 15:19, "**For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.**"

Therefore, it is important that we guard our heart; that is, be very careful what we meditate upon in life. Proverbs 4:23 says, "**Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**" The issues of life, all that pertains to our life proceeds from our heart, not our mind.

The guarding of our heart is a subject of its own, too large to cover in this book. But be aware, it is our heart that will determine our relationship, fellowship, and eternal life with God. Therefore, the believing must be in our heart, not just our mind.

You can guard your heart, that the issues of life flowing out of it will help you in your believing and receiving from God. This is done by keeping your mind on the Word of God, not on the circumstance. Do not focus your mind on the things of this world. Bring your thoughts into subjection unto the Word of God by the help of the Holy Spirit within you.

To receive from God that which you ask, it must be done upon His Word and not upon your merits, or good works. Come to an understanding; everything you have done for God is great and God keeps a record of all the good you do. But it does not count, and is not taken into account by God when it comes to receiving from God. That is to say, "**all your righteousness is as filthy rags before God**" (Isaiah 64:6).

You cannot be justified by your works, your good deeds, or what you have done for God. There is only one basis for receiving from God; that is, our covenant, sealed with the blood of Jesus Christ. Everything you will ever receive from God is based upon the completed work of Jesus on Calvary. There are no "good works" that you can add to what God has already done for you in Christ Jesus that will help you receive "**whatsoever you ask!**" Every time someone tries to add something to what God has already done for them they lose their reward.

At the same time, grace does not take the place of obedience. Every person mentioned in the Bible that ever received anything from God, received because of obedience. Therefore, disobedience can stop the flow of God in a person's life.

Pride, self-righteousness, self-justification, self-worth, and all things connected with self, will stop the power of God from working in your life. This is mainly the reason Jesus stressed, denying self. You cannot earn your way to receiving from God. Jesus already paid the price for you. IT IS PAID IN FULL, by the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. God will not accept any over-payment. From the least to the greatest, the price is the same; "**Paid in full, by Christ Jesus!**"

There are two main areas specifically mentioned in the Word of God that will hinder the LORD from answering your prayers, unforgiveness (Mark 11:25-26), and judging others (Matt. 7:1). Judge yourself, and forgive others just as God has forgiven you, and God will answer your prayers.

Whatever someone else does cannot help you (except the prayer of agreement). If you agree with someone else, you become a partner with them in what they are doing. Let your agreement be with God, and the Holy Spirit, not with a man or woman. At the same time, God and the Holy Spirit work through people, members of the body of Christ. We must work together with God in the body of Christ, but not follow ungodly activities of persons within the body of Christ.

If we agree with those who disagree with the Word of God we become partners against God. Therefore, the Scripture says, "Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord. . ." (2 Cor. 6:16). When this is necessary, do not become a judge of what they are, or are not doing. Quietly leave, keeping your mouth closed, "bridle your tongue" (James 3:2). "**Judge not, and you will not be judged**" (Matt. 7:1).

There is a difference between judging another person or following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Judging is "presenting a case before another (telling others, or making known your assumptions or supposed facts)." Within the Dictionary definition of the word "judge" are the following meanings, "to pass judgement upon another; to criticize; to censure; to think; consider; suppose."

Following the leading of the Holy Spirit is "something determined within yourself, not making it known to others." The Holy Spirit knows all things. He knows when it is time for a person to separate themselves and when it is time to stay and pray for the other person.

We must listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit within us to determine within ourselves what we should do in all situations. This is not the same as judging. Determinations are done in secret, within. Judging, is making known to others. "Let God handle those who are out of line. That battle is not yours, it is the LORDS!"

Our lives should at all times be a continuous changing from whatsoever is not pleasing to God, to a walk with God. Amos 3:3 says, "**Can two walk together, except they be agreed?**" Get yourself in agreement with God and receive from Him all that He has promised in His Word.

Ask, whatsoever you will, according to His Word and you shall receive! **For, whosoever asks, receives!** (Luke 11:10).

GOD ANSWERS EVERY PRAYER PRAYED FROM THE HEART

Many people believe that God only answers certain prayers at certain times, whenever it is His will to answer. Some people believe God answers many prayers with a simple "NO!" Yet the Bible contains the answer to the question, "does God answer all prayers, and if so; when and how?"

As we study the Scriptures we will find God does answers all prayers prayed from the heart. As Jesus taught us, "**believe in your heart, and doubt not.**" If we pray from our heart, God will answer. If we just say idle words in doubt and unbelief God cannot answer. God will answer anyone who asks in faith, "it makes no difference who the person is," or what they ask for "from their heart, without doubt."

Take the incident in the book of Joshua, Chapter two and six, concerning Rahab the harlot. Rahab asked the two spies to save her and the members of her household. The Bible tells us that Rahab knew that God was with the children of Israel.

Because that Rahab asked to be saved, she was saved. Not because she was a perfect, righteous, or a well liked individual. No, as a matter of fact, she was a harlot. Had she been an Israelite, she would have been stoned to death. But God looks upon the heart, not the outward circumstance. Remember what Jesus said to the woman taken in adultery in John 8:3-15? He said, ". . . **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more**" (John 8:11). Rahab believed in her heart that the spies would keep their commitment and save her and her household.

God will answer every prayer prayed from the heart. Even if the prayer is contrary to the will of God, "as long as it is spoken or prayed from the heart."

The Children of Israel turned their heart from following the LORD while in the wilderness. It says, "**And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!**" (Numbers 14:2). The LORD answered the Children of Israel, saying to Moses, "**Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:**" (Numbers 14:28). The children of Israel, twenty years old and upward died in the wilderness, just as they had spoken.

God does answer prayers from the heart, but not always idle words from our mouth. Many times we say things that have no real meaning behind what we say. We speak in doubt, and unbelief and God does not honor that. At times we pray with doubt in our mind, but our heart is in agreement

with God. "This doubt is not from our heart, but thoughts put into our mind to try to stop us from praying or asking God." We must ask, to receive! (James 4:2)

Let me relate to you an example from my own experience. On June 24, 1982 I was at a meeting with a number of others studying, "the laying on of hands to heal the sick."

During the teaching it was mentioned how to check arms to see if they are the right length or not. One of the people at the meeting checked her arms right away and found that one arm was shorter than the other by about three-quarters of an inch. She asked to stop the tape so we could pray for the LORD to bring out her arm to the same length as the other one. We waited until the tape was over and then we checked everyone's arms for proper length. There was one other person who's one arm was shorter than the other also.

We checked their arms every way we could to be sure one was shorter; that it was not just the way they were standing. After being sure, they asked me to pray with them that their arms would come out to the right length.

When they asked me to pray with them, in my mind I felt they were foolish, after all, there was a Pastor there who I was sure could do a better job of praying than I could. I said to them, what about the Pastor here, why not let him pray, he knows what to do? But they insisted that I pray for them.

In my mind I was saying "you people are foolish, if I pray nothing will happen." I thought there was no way with me praying that those arms would come out. After all, the Bible says "**these signs shall follow them that believe**" (Mark 16:16,17). To me, that meant I must believe it in my mind and be totally convinced that they would actually come out when I prayed in order for them to come out. Yet, I was one hundred percent positive in my mind that they would not come out. I never prayed for physical healing for anyone before this and I was sure this would not work if I did the praying.

I didn't tell them I was sure it would not work. After all, I was supposed to be a believer like the rest of them. I had read what it said in Mark 16:17. I knew Jesus would not lie, yet I was afraid to tell them it would not work. So I didn't say anything to them about me not believing in my mind.

I put my hands under the woman's hands as she stretched out her arms toward me, and I started to pray in the Spirit first. Then, after a minute or so of praying in the Spirit I was still sure beyond all doubt that it would not work, but I had to continue on. I went that far so I had to keep going. I said, *"In the name of Jesus, I command these arms to come out to the same length, in Jesus' name."* It wasn't easy to say those words especially when in my mind I knew it wasn't going to work.

Oh! what a surprise when I watched the short arm come out to the length of the other arm. In my mind I was saying, this cannot be, it can not be true. Yet, it came out right in front of me. I was standing there watching it come out.

Then the man came to have me pray for him. This time I checked his arms first, a little closer, making sure, beyond all doubt, that they were not the same length; that one was shorter than the other. Now I had no choice, I had to pray for his arm being he had just seen the woman's arm come out. I was on the spot, I couldn't tell him that it would not work, even though I was sure it would not happen a second time, maybe once, but never twice. Again I was one hundred percent sure nothing was going to happen. I would pray and they would stay the same, I was sure of that, yet I had to pray for him. I was on the spot with no other choice but to pray like I did for the woman.

Once again I prayed, holding my hands under his, I prayed in the Spirit first for about a minute or so; still not believing it would work, I said, *"In the name of Jesus I command these arms to come out to the right length, in Jesus' name."* Just like the woman's arm, his also came out to the same length as the other one. Praise the LORD! Thank the LORD!

The LORD answered the prayer, not according to my mind but according to His Word, which was in my heart and in their heart. Their believing, and my praying, caused the LORD to be faithful to His Word. The point to remember is, **"We must ask!"**

Whose prayer did the LORD answer, their's or mine? Who knows? But one thing is sure, if no one had asked, the LORD would not have responded and lengthened their arms. The LORD answers every prayer from our heart, don't let your mind get in the way, and not pray.

How can we know that God will answer our prayer when we pray? If we study the Bible from Genesis through Revelation we will find that God never changes (Mal. 3:6), there is not even a shadow of turning with God (James 1:17). Whatever God said He would do in His Word He will do. God is not a respecter of persons; that is, He doesn't offer to do something for one person that He would not do for another based upon the same type of situation. By this we mean, if God did something for the apostles, or disciples in the New Testament He will do the same for you or I because we are also under the same covenant they were.

Based upon the requirements of the New Testament we will find only two requirements to get our prayers answered.

(1) Is, ask the LORD according to His will (1 John 5:14), believing and not doubting in our heart (Mark 11:23,24).

(2) Is do not to have any sin, unforgiveness, or judgement of another in our heart (Mark 11:25,26).

These are the only requirements to get our prayers answered.

There were similar requirement in the Old Testament under the old covenant. Searching the whole Bible over you will find that every person who prayed to LORD under these conditions received whatsoever they asked. Even those who were not under the old covenant got their prayers answered. Take for instance Naaman, the Syrian army captain in 2 Kings 5:1-14. The LORD cleansed him of leprosy even though he was not a child of Israel.

Let us apply the two requirements to Naaman, the Syrian army captain. The first part of the first requirement is "according to His (the LORD'S) will." What was the will of the LORD concerning Naaman, the Syrian army captain? Jesus said in John 5:30, "**...I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.**" Whatsoever we see Jesus doing in the Gospels would be the will of God the Father. What would the will of God the Father be concerning Naaman? In 1 Timothy it tells us to pray,

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:2-4).

Naaman was not a king, but he was a man in authority, a captain of the Syrian army. The Syrians caused many problems for the children of Israel many times. Yet, it is the will of the LORD that "**all men be saved,**" this included Naaman. It is the will of the LORD "**that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.**"

By the LORD healing Naaman of leprosy, he was saved. He made a commitment, saying, "**...for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD**" (2 Kings 5:17). First a commitment must be made, then the LORD can work within an individual to change their heart that they no longer serve other gods.

The second part of (1) is that the individual must believe and not doubt in their heart. At first Naaman would not believe. At first, it says,

"Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper" (2 Kings 5:11). Then in verse 13 it tells us, "**And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?"** When Naaman obeyed the prophet's command, and went and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times he was healed of the leprosy (2 Kings 5:14). Pride needed to be overcome, then obedience. The act of obedience is an indication of believing.

Part two (2) involves sin, forgiveness, and not judging another. Naaman's sin was already paid for by the LORD, "**the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world**" (Rev. 13:8). Naaman's heart was turned from serving other gods to serving the LORD (2 Kings 5:17).

In 1 John 3:8b, it tells us, "**For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**" The works of the devil were destroyed in the life of Naaman. When the works of the devil are destroyed in a person's life, and they commit themselves to serve the LORD, the will of God is done. This is the whole purpose for the work of redemption, that "**...all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth**" (1 Tim. 2:4).

The LORD'S way of saving a soul from the powers of the devil may not seem right to us, but to the LORD, "*His ways are higher than our ways, His thoughts are higher than our thoughts*" (Isa. 55:8,9). Naaman "Asked," and the LORD healed him! How much more will the LORD do for those who are already born again into the family of God?

If we check the Scriptures over and over, we will not find one person who prayed and asked the LORD for something based upon the requirements of the covenant and did not get what they asked for.

The LORD will give you what you ask for if you will ask, believing in your heart and not doubting. Do as Jesus said in John 16:24, "**Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**"

Another assurance we have that God will answer our prayer if we ask comes from the account of Jesus Christ in the Gospels. John 1:1 says, "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**" There are two things of importance about this verse of Scripture. First, the Scripture is speaking of Jesus Christ, "the Word of God" come in the flesh (John 1:14). The second thing is that the Greek word used for the "Word," is Logos. This word is used many times throughout the New Testament. Its meaning is "the spoken word; what was spoke by inspiration of God." "The written Word" is God's Word that was spoken by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost (2 Tim. 3:14).

When we speak the Word of God by inspiration of the Holy Ghost it is the same as if the LORD Himself spoke it. The Word was God in the beginning and the Word is still God. God never changes, neither does His Word.

Studying the life of Jesus Christ in the gospels you will find that Jesus never refused to answer the prayers or requests of anyone who asked. He even answered the requests of Roman soldiers, a Syrophenician woman, and others not of the house of Israel. Even though He made this statement, "**I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel**" (Matt. 15:24).

Jesus was doing the will of God here on earth. God's Will is made clear in the Bible. His will is to answer every prayer of every individual who prays according to His Word.

When you pray, pray according to the Word of God and God will answer your prayer.

There are two classes of people on earth. Those who are God's children by the new birth in Christ Jesus and those who are not God's children. That is, those who are not born again in Christ Jesus. The Bible is written to those who are God's children. All the promises in the Bible are for God's children. They are received by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9). We cannot earn any good favor with God. We do not receive from God because of our good works. We receive because we ask in faith, not wavering.

Remember, "**You have not, because ye ask not**" (James 4:2). The reason so many Christian

do not have what they need is simply because they did not ask. Ask the LORD and He will give you whatsoever you ask, according to His Word!

ASK AND RECEIVE

When we ask Jesus to forgive us, He forgives us. When we ask Jesus to receive us into His life, He receives us. When we ask Jesus to baptize us in the Holy Ghost, He baptizes us. Whatever we ask Him to do, He does it.

What we need to learn is to Ask, "whatsoever we will" according to His Word, and He will do it. Jesus said in John 14:13,14, "**And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**" Do you believe Jesus is telling the truth? He cannot lie. He is the truth (John 14:6).

If Jesus was saying what He said in John 14:13-14 TO YOU, WOULD YOU BELIEVE HIM? Let's put it this way, the Bible is written TO YOU. What Jesus said in John 14:13,14 is meant FOR YOU, TODAY! That is why it is in the Bible; FOR YOUR BENEFIT.

Why did Jesus say He will do it? He said, "**that His Father would be glorified in Him!**" Why would God the Father be glorified if Jesus did whatsoever you asked Him? Because God always gets glorified for what He does, not what He doesn't do. When God does something He gets the glory. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God got the glory. Even the angels proclaimed Jesus birth. It says in Luke 2:13,14, "**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**" God did it and He got the glory. When the shepherds had seen the baby Jesus, it says, "**And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them**" (Luke 2:20). God did it, and God got the glory.

God gets glorified when He does things for people on earth. So, when Jesus does whatsoever we ask Him, God gets the glory. Therefore, Jesus said, "**If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**" ■

Did you know it was that simple. God makes things simple, man makes them complicated. Man always figures out a way to complicate what God made simple. This is an age old problem for men. Our adversary, the devil, tries to steal what is ours by making things so complicated that we do not receive what is ours.

This problem is spoken of in Galatians. The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Galatia, saying,

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (Galatians 3:1-5).

This same thing is still happening today, among Christians. They are born again into the family of God, simply by asking Jesus to come into their life and be their LORD. That's all it takes. They just ask, and they became a child of God in Christ Jesus. Then, they ask to receive the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of speaking in tongues; they receive and speak in tongues.

Then, all of a sudden, someone tells them they must first make themselves perfect before God will answer their prayers. They start believing others and the LORD no longer answers their prayers. Why? They stopped believing in what the LORD said and started believing others. Look what is written in Romans 3:28, **"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."** Using Abraham as an example it says in Romans 4:2-3, **_____**

For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. **_____**

If that was the case with Abraham and he is one of our examples pertaining to faith, what should we do? Surely, not as the Galatians did.

What did they do? They began to believe others, rather than what Paul taught them. Jesus said, **"Ask, and you shall receive!"** Jesus didn't add a lot of other do's and don't's to His statement. He simply said, **"Ask, and you shall receive!"** Let God get the glory, by asking Jesus. If we ask Jesus, He will do it, and God will be glorified in the Son.

Have you ever tried to make yourself perfect? If you have been around a lot of religious people for any length of time you most likely have. Let me ask you a question; can an automobile repair itself? Can a broken chair repair itself? Can a broken glass repair itself? No. Neither can you make yourself perfect.

The LORD didn't tell you to make yourself perfect. As a matter of fact it says in Hebrews 13:20-21,

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wempleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

This tells us that it is **"the God of peace"** that will make us perfect. Yet our perfection is accomplished by us working with God. By **_____** God working in us to perfect that which concerns Him

(Phil. 2:13). When we are obedient to the voice of the Spirit within us, God will perfect that which concerns Him. Yet, our obedience is very important. Without it, God cannot perfect that which concerns Him in us.

To a certain degree, God has already made us perfect in Christ, we must learn to live according to the perfection we inherited in Christ Jesus. It says in 1 Peter 1:15-16,

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

If we read the context of these verses carefully we will understand, it does not say "make yourself holy," it is saying, "walk in the holiness, in like manner as God who made you holy." Ephesians 5:1 says, "**Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children,**" that is, walk in the newness of life that God has given you.

How does God make us perfect? First by His Word. His Word declares that "**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**" (1 John 1:9). If we are cleansed from all unrighteousness that would make us perfect as far as righteousness is concerned. Yet, if we do not believe our confession is accepted we will not receive forgiveness.

Therefore, how do we become righteous? By believing in Jesus Christ, and what He has already done for us. Romans 3:22 says, "**Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe. . .**" If righteousness comes by believing, what can we add believing that would make us more righteous? If we try to add anything to what God has already done, it will become worthless rather than better.

If we want to receive from the LORD, we must do it as the LORD says. If the LORD says "**ask, then ask!**" Why try to do it another way? Someone coined a statement one time; "Father knows best!" If God is your Father, then surely He knows best.

The Bible tells us "*the LORD never changes*" (Mal. 3:6), with God the Father, "*there is no variableness, not even a shadow of turning*" (James 1:17). This being the case, we ought to find evidence of answered prayer in the Old Testament also.

Let us look at the situation with king Hezekiah. In 2 Kings 20:1, it says, "**In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.**" Hezekiah was very sick, almost on his death bed. The LORD said, he shall die and not live. In the condition of Hezekiah at that time, if a change was not made, he would have died. But what did Hezekiah do? In Verse two it says, "**Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD. . .**"

When Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, he did not want to die. Verse four and five says, "**And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,**

Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.

The LORD answered Hezekiah's prayer within minutes from the time he started to pray. The LORD told Isaiah to tell Hezekiah, **"I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee:"** It didn't take the LORD long to answer Hezekiah's prayer. Hezekiah was given fifteen more years to live. The LORD did not ask Hezekiah a lot of questions, one way or another. The LORD answered his prayer because Hezekiah asked him.

Jesus did the same for Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue. In Mark 5:21-43, it tells us that Jairus came to Jesus because his daughter was sick, at the point of death. Jesus did not ask Jairus any questions about his past, or if he was good enough to deserve having his daughter healed. Immediately, when Jairus asked Jesus to come and lay hands upon his daughter, Jesus went with him.

Before they got to Jairus' house, someone came and told them that his daughter had already died. Jesus immediately said to Jairus, **"Be not afraid, only believe."** After Jesus entered the house, He prayed, and the daughter arose and walked. No questions asked. Jesus answered the request of Jairus, simply, because he asked!

In 1 Samuel, chapter one, there was a woman by the name of Hannah. She was one of two wives of Elkanah. She was without child; but she prayed to the LORD for a child (1 Sam. 1:10). The LORD answered her prayer, without asking any questions. She prayed and He answered. Hannah became the mother of Samuel, a prophet of God. The LORD answers prayers, if people ask!

When Jesus entered into the house of Peter, in Luke 4:38, it tells us, **"Peter's wife's mother was taken with a great fever."** Then it tells us, **"they besought Jesus for her."** Then it says, **"Jesus stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her."** Jesus didn't ask any questions. Others asked Jesus for her, and Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law.

Over and over again in the Bible it tells us of people, when they prayed to the LORD, He answered their prayer without asking any questions. Why did the LORD answer? **Because they asked!**

Jesus' instructions go like this,

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened (Luke 11:9-10).

Jesus didn't say you must first do this or do that. He said, simply; ask, and it shall be given! No questions asked.

Why does the Word of God tell us over and over to ask, and it shall be given? Because God loves those who ask. God loves those who will come to Him in prayer, seeking His help. In Luke 18, Jesus taught that men ought always to pray (Luke 18:1). Prayer includes asking God, asking the LORD! It doesn't do any good to pray to anyone else, only to God or the LORD, they are the only ones who can give you whatsoever you ask.

Today, God answers prayer even more so than in the Old Testament times. Why is that? Because we are living, "many years after" Jesus paid the price for us. Jesus already took our sins, sickness, diseases, etc. upon Himself that we could be free. Also, that we can have, and should have, the Holy Ghost dwelling in us, as our helper, guide, comforter, and teacher (John 7:38-39). He leads us into a living relationship with God according to His Word.

God said in Hebrews 8:10-12,

**For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:
And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, **Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.**
For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**

This covenant included the Holy Spirit to teach us the love of God. In Galatians 3:13,14, it says,

**Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

Abraham had a blessing... Abraham had the Holy Spirit... Abraham was filled with the Holy Spirit, for he was a prophet... This same Holy Spirit is promised to everyone who is in Christ Jesus, that is, "everyone who is born again of the Spirit" (John 3:6). Every child of God is promised the Holy Spirit, after they are born again (John 3:3,5, Eph. 1:13). Yet, like all other gifts from God, we must also ASK, AND RECEIVE the Holy Spirit if we want Him.

God loves to answer our prayers. Not only to answer our prayers but also that our sins and iniquities will not be remembered any more.

What about our sins and iniquities? If God does not remember our sins and iniquities, why would He ask us about them? He doesn't ask us about them, because "*He doesn't remember them once we have confessed them and they are forgiven.*"

If the Scripture in Hebrews 8:12 is true, and God does not change, not even a shadow, then we should be able to find other Scriptures in both the New and Old Testament that indicate that God

was always that way. In other words, the whole Bible must be in agreement with the Word of God for the whole Bible is the Word of God.

Let's look a little further in Hebrews, to Chapter 10:15-17, it says, **Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,**

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Certain things to notice about these verses. The Holy Ghost is a witness of these things. That is important in the New Covenant, for the Holy Ghost is given to be a witness on earth in the New Covenant (1 John 5:8). Another thing to notice is that the LORD said, **"I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them."** Therefore, the law for us in the New Testament is written in our mind and put into our hearts by the LORD. The third thing is, the LORD said, **"And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."**

The Holy Ghost as a witness (within us), and God's law is written within us. This is also spoken of in the Old Testament. The Scripture in Hebrews 8:6-12 is taken directly from Jeremiah 31:31-34, almost word for word. The Scriptures concerning the Holy Spirit within; a new heart, and a new spirit, are mentioned in Ezekiel 36:26-27, saying,

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Then the Scriptures concerning the remembrance of sins is mentioned in Isaiah 43:25, saying, **"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."** Again in Isaiah 44:22, it says, **"I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee."**

Therefore, being the Scriptures cannot be broken; and the LORD has not changed, then we must change. For the Scripture says in Amos 3:3, **"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"**

If we are to walk with God, and He is to be our God and Father, and Jesus is to be our LORD, then we must come into agreement with God. Being that the LORD does not change, and will not change, we must be the ones to change. Let us come into agreement with God, His Word, His Spirit, and the Blood of Jesus.

The blood is just as important as the Word and the Spirit (1 John 5:8). In Hebrews 10:18 it

says, "Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin." This tells us that the one and final sacrifice for sins is past. There will be no more sacrifices for sins. Therefore, through the shedding of the blood of Jesus we enter into an everlasting covenant for our redemption and forgiveness of sins. Hebrews 9:12 says, ". . . but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Hebrews 9:22 says, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." Hebrews 13:20 says, "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant."

Why will God not remember our sins? Because they have already been taken care of through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, by the shedding of His blood, which is an everlasting sacrifice, and remission for all our sins. We must remember, to receive this free gift of forgiveness of sins, cleansing by the blood, we must do two things; walk in the light of the Word of God and confess our sins. In 1 John 1:7-9, it says,

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Even though all our sins and iniquities are taken care of for us, we must not become proud, boasters, of our righteousness. But we must admit to the truth, yes, we do have sin. But, through our walking in the light and confession "we are cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ."

Now, Hebrews 10:19 says, "**Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.**" So, let us come into agreement with God, His Word, the Holy Spirit, the blood of Jesus Christ and ASK, that we may receive; that God will be glorified in the Son (John 14:13).

Always remembering, once we confess our sins and iniquities, God cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, being cleansed, God cannot remember our former condition.

Let us see evidence of this forgiveness of sins in Jesus statement to a man sick with the palsy in Mark 2:3-12;

And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within

themselves, he said unto them, **Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?**

But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

We need to believe Jesus, His Words, and be not like the scribes, reasoning in our hearts, letting our minds rob us of all that God has done for us through Jesus Christ, our LORD and Savior. Let God be true and every man a liar! Jesus was doing the Will of God, according to the Word of God when he said to the man sick with the palsy, **"Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. . . . Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house."**

God sees us in Christ Jesus, His children, righteous, and cleansed by the blood of the everlasting covenant. In 2 Corinthians 6:16,18, it says,

. . . for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. . . .

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

God is not against us, God is for us (Rom. 8:31). God wants us to ask, that our joy may be full. Remember, Jesus said in John 16:24, **"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."** Why did Jesus say we shall receive if we ask in His name? Jesus explained this in verse 27, saying, **"For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God."**

Truly, the reason is, BECAUSE YOU LOVE JESUS. You have given yourself to Him, therefore, HE IS YOUR LORD. With Jesus as your LORD, you become a child of God. God is your Father. God the Father loves you BECAUSE YOU LOVE JESUS. Therefore, no questions asked, God will do whatsoever you desire, if you ask in faith, believing, and not doubting.

Let us look at what Jesus said in Mark 11:22-24,

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

What requirements did Jesus set forth for us to receive? First He said, **"Have faith in God."**

That fairly well eliminates any faith in anything we did, or have done. That puts everything on God. Totally and completely upon what the LORD has done and what God will do.

Second, He said, "**say with your mouth whatsoever you will, and doubt not in your heart.**" Again, that has nothing to do with anything you have done in the past, but is based upon what you speak, without doubting in your heart.

The only requirements contained in this statement of Jesus are: Have faith in God. Speak without doubt in your heart. First believe that you have them. "THEN YOU SHALL RECEIVE." Notice, believe you have them, then you shall receive! No other requirements are mentioned.

Notice also, this includes "**What things soever ye desire.**" Jesus did not put any limitations upon what we could ask for. We put the limitations on what we receive, by what we ask for.

Jesus is the one who told us to ask. Jesus also said in Matthew 7:24, "**Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man. . .**" Be wise, like Mary said to the servants at the wedding in Cana, ". . . **Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it**" (John 2:5). A wise person is one who does what Jesus says, without asking other questions, just do it!

Jesus said in John 10:35, ". . . **the scripture cannot be broken.**" Therefore, In Joel 2:32 it says, "**And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered . . .**" This Scripture is repeated in Acts 2:21, and Romans 10:13. Call upon the LORD and be delivered! No other questions asked, just call and be delivered.

James 4:2 says, ". . . **ye have not, because ye ask not**"

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord (James 1:5-7).

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him (James 5:14-15).

In 1 John 5:14-15, it says,

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

God wants to give you whatsoever you ask, and He will give you anything you ask ACCORDING TO HIS WORD: If you will only ask, believing and not doubting.

What does "whatsoever" mean to you? The dictionary says the word "whatsoever" means, "whatever, everything or anything, no questions asked; no matter what; regardless of what; all of; the whole of; any number or kind; no matter what."

Remember what Jesus said in John 14:13-14?

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

We should meditate upon that statement along with the one Jesus made in Mark 11:22-24, and add to that what John said in 1 John 5:14-15,

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

When we do this we should come to the conclusion that Jesus wants to give us whatsoever we ask according to the Word of God, simply, so that His Father will be glorified in Him.

Therefore, if we ask according to His Word, He will do it! No questions asked! That includes anything we ask according to His Word. His Word covers a lot of territory. It covers whatsoever we have need of (Matt. 6:25-32), eliminating those things that come from envy, strife, lusts (James 3:14-4:3), coveting (Luke 12:15), etc. We know those things are not according to His Word. Yet, there are many things remaining that are according to His Word.

Especially those things pertaining to deliverance from the works of the devil, depression, oppression, sickness, disease, malfunctions of the body, disorders of the mind, lack of provisions for essential living, maintenance of items possessed without deceit or coveting, etc.

Listening to the voice of the Spirit within is very helpful in asking, "whatsoever you will," according to the Word of God.

The Word of God tells us that there are three that bare witness on earth, the Spirit, the Word, and the blood; these three always agree in one (1 John 5:8). The Spirit of God agrees with both, the Word of God and the blood of Jesus. The Spirit of God bares witness with our spirit (Rom. 8:16), and we know we are in agreement with God.

How does the Spirit bare witness with our spirit? Jesus said it this way, "**Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid**" (John 14:27). Peace in our spirit gives us the assurance that we are doing the will of God, in agreement with the Spirit of God, the Word of God, and the blood of

Jesus Christ. This peace goes beyond all natural understanding of the mind (Phil. 4:7). This peace is in our spirit, not in our mind. The battle we must fight is not a battle in our spirit, but in our mind. The voice of the Holy Spirit speaks from our new created spirit. The voice of the Spirit speaking to us always brings peace in our spirit.

Therefore, before you ask the LORD for anything, be sure you have peace in your spirit concerning that which you are asking. If you are born again and have the Holy Spirit within you, you can always know if you are asking according to the Word of God and the Will of God by peace in your spirit.

If you do not have peace in your spirit, don't ask. For your asking will be unfruitful, your labor will be in vain. You must have peace in your spirit to receive from God. If, after you have peace in your spirit and you ask your mind becomes like a battle field; "that's the devil." Give no place for the devil in your mind and the peace of God in your spirit will guide you to victory.

Asking does not mean, "begging and pleading;" it means "making a request based upon a promise." The dictionary definition of the word "ask," includes "to put to a question; to seek information; to inquire about; to request for; to invite; to expect or demand." Therefore, to demand something according to the Word's of Jesus, or the Word of God is also called asking.

In Matthew 28:18-20, it says,

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The word "observe," does not just mean to find out, or know about the things that Jesus commanded the disciples. It means also to learn what Jesus did and do what Jesus did. Therefore, we must not just be learners, but also doers of what Jesus did. Jesus said in Mark 11:22, ". . . **Have faith in God.**"

To a degree, Jesus is commanding us to Have faith in God! Having faith in God includes commanding things to happen according to the will of God for His children here on earth. Thereby, giving God the glory for what great things He does for those who love Him.

Jesus also said in Mark 16:17-18,

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

These things are not for the glory of man, but for the glory of God. When the works of the devil are destroyed by the use of Jesus' name, God the Father gets glorified in the Son.

Jesus also said in Luke 10:19, "**Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**" The reason Jesus gave us power over the devil and all his demons is so that God will get the glory as we use the authority and power given to us by His Son.

As we put them all together we will find that according to Jesus Word, and the Word of God, we have authority to demand things to happen in the name of Jesus, and it shall be done. Demanding in Jesus' name is the same as asking, it is included in the meaning of the word "ask." If Jesus said we should ask in His name, that includes demanding in Jesus' name, whatsoever we desire "according to the Word of God."

Why would God the Father give us such great authority, through Jesus, in His name? Simply, that God may be glorified in the Son (John 14:13). God has pleasure in seeing His children blessed with those things needful. Blessed with health, food, clothing, and all things needful to every day living.

The important thing to understand is, if the Holy Spirit leads us to do something, it will always be according to the Word of God. The thing we must do, is get to know the voice of the Holy Spirit within us. Identify, and know the difference between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voices of other spirits. There are many voices in the world, many spirits professing themselves to be like the Holy Spirit. But you can know the voice of the Holy Spirit above the voices of other spirits by knowing the Word of God as pertaining to your circumstance.

Many times the Spirit of God within me led me to use the name of Jesus against what was taking place in the natural. Each time I followed the leading of the Holy Spirit, that which seemed to be taking place changed. The words spoken out of my mouth, without doubt, or unbelief, happened just as I spoke it. Not always the very instant, but it did come to pass according to what I said. That is not to say that I am any different than anyone else. It is to encourage you also, to use the name of Jesus against those things that come against you, or try to rob you of what you have.

How can anyone be sure God will answer their prayer? The Bible is God's Word to us. It tells us in Hebrews 6:18 that it is impossible for God to lie.

Jesus is God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus cannot lie. When He said He will do it in John 14:13,14, He will do it.

The evidence of God's ability to do whatsoever we ask is throughout the Scriptures. The LORD brought the Children of Israel out of Egypt and there was not one feeble person among them (Psa. 105:37). He opened the Red sea and they walked across on dry land. The LORD fed them in the wilderness, in the desert with manna and quail for forty years. The LORD gave them shade in

the hot desert each day by a cloud for forty years. The LORD gave them heat every night in the cold desert by a pillar of fire. The LORD took care of His Children, Supernaturally, for forty years.

When Joshua needed more time to win a battle he prayed, the LORD stopped the sun and the moon (that is, the earth did not turn) for about one whole day (Joshua 10:8-14). Elijah prayed and the LORD sent down fire from heaven and burnt up the offering (1 Kings 18:36-38). When Isaiah prayed to the LORD for Hezekiah, the LORD turned back the shadow ten degrees (2 Kings 20:11).

In Mark 6:37-44, Jesus looked up to heaven and blessed the five loaves of bread and two fish, and fed five thousand men, plus women and children. Another time, Jesus did similar, and fed four thousand men, plus women and children.

All through the Bible we find accounts of the LORD doing things "supernaturally," for those who asked. There is nothing too hard for the LORD. The LORD is well able to do whatsoever He says He will do. Our part is to believe, and have faith in God.

We must believe the Word of God and the Words of Jesus. They are Truth, for God cannot lie! Jesus cannot lie! Therefore, ASK; BELIEVE, and receive whatsoever you ask!

LIVE BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

In Romans 1:17, Paul quoting Habakkuk 2:4 said, "**For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**" We must come to an understanding of what this means.

The first thing we need to understand is "righteousness." What is righteousness? How do we become righteous?

The word "righteousness or righteous" means "innocent, faultless, guiltless, etc." One thing of importance in Romans 1:17 is that it "**is the righteousness of God (which is) revealed from faith to faith. . .**" Therefore it is God's righteousness, not our righteousness that is revealed from faith to faith.

In Romans 3:9-12, Paul makes it clear by saying,
**What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;
As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.
They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**

Psalms 14:3 says, "**They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**" Also, Psalm 53:3 says, "**Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**"

No matter who we think we are, we are not righteous in ourselves. Our righteousness is as filthy rags. Therefore, the righteousness that God sees in those who are His children is the righteousness of God.

The righteousness of God is upon those who believe. Romans 3:22-24 says,
**Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**

The righteousness that God accepts is the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is given to and

upon all that believe.

How do we receive the righteousness that is "**revealed from faith to faith?**" We receive it by believing the written Word of God concerning those who are in Christ.

The only righteousness that will be of any value to us is that which is ours because we believe in Jesus Christ, and the work of redemption which He did for us. That includes the forgiveness of sins.

Let us see the revelation of this righteousness which is upon us who believe. Colossians 1:12-13 says,

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

Notice that it is God who has already made us meet (able) to be partakers of the inheritance. It is God who has already delivered us from the power of darkness, (the power of Satan). It is God who has already translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son (Jesus Christ).

Once we received Jesus Christ as our LORD (John 1:11-14), we are children of God in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:16-17 says,

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ. . .

This is not something we did ourselves. It is a work of God in Christ Jesus. God has made us joint-heirs with Christ. Not because we were any better than anyone else. Only because we believed His Word concerning His Son, Jesus Christ. It is by our believing, that God has made us joint-heirs with Christ.

Let us see this joint-heir position that God has made for us in Colossians 1:14 says, "**In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.**" Being joint-heirs with Christ, we have redemption through His blood. We have been redeemed from the powers of darkness into the kingdom of God's Son. The price was paid for our redemption by Jesus Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 6:20 it says, "**For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**" We were bought with a price, our redemption is paid for with the body and blood of Jesus Christ. We belong to God. We are not our own. Nothing we have is our own. Everything we are and all we have belongs to God.

Colossians 1:21-22 says,

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight.

Two things to see in these verses. One is "we were alienated (separated from God in our minds)." Our minds did not know the truth of God, the righteousness of God which is unto all and upon all that believe His Word concerning Christ Jesus. It was through the gospel that we came to the knowledge of the truth. It was through our receiving Jesus Christ as LORD that we entered into the family of God. This believing in our minds brought us to receive Jesus as LORD and enter into the kingdom of God's Son. Before we entered in, we were under the powers of darkness, separated from God.

The second thing of importance is that God has reconciled us in the body of Christ Jesus, through the death of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. It is through the death of Jesus, wherein we also died with Him, that we were made able to enter into the family of God. When we entered into the family of God, we were made holy, unblameable, and unreprouvable in God's sight.

We need to see and understand this from the Word of God. When we were born again into the family of God, God made us holy in Christ Jesus. God made us acceptable in His sight. We are unblameable for all our unrighteousness, because of Jesus Christ, in whom we dwell. We are in Him, and He is in us. **"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son"** (1 John 5:11). **". . . as he is, so are we in this world"** (1 John 4:17b).

Jesus prayed in John 17:21-23, saying,

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Jesus' prayer was answered in your life when you received Him as your LORD and Savior. When you were born again, you entered into the family of God, in Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, it says, **"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."**

Christ is in you and you are in Christ. When God the Father see's you, He see's Christ. He see's you in Christ. You, being in Christ, and Christ in you, makes you One with Him.

This is called a mystery which had been hid from ages past. Colossians 1:27 says, **"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."**

In Christ, you are reconciled unto God, holy, unblameable, and unreprouvable in God's sight.

Colossians 2:9-10 says,

**For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.
And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.**

When God see's you He see's Christ in you. God see's the completed work of Christ, complete in you. You are His, you are not your own. You belong to Christ for He redeemed you from the powers of darkness into His kingdom.

Colossians 2:11-12 says,

**In whom (in Christ), also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:
Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

You are complete in Christ.

Colossians 2:13-14 says,

**And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.**

You have been quickened (made alive) together with Christ (in Him). All your trespasses have been forgiven. All the ordinances that were against you have been blotted out. They were all taken out of the way and nailed to the Cross of Jesus on Calvary. He bore your sins for you in His own body on the Cross. He took all your sickness and diseases upon Himself and nailed them to the cross of Calvary. They are no longer yours, for you are in Christ. In Christ you are complete, holy, unblamable, unreprouvable in God's sight; without sin, sickness, disease, or any of the works of the devil.

It is your mind that must be renewed to understand the mystery of who you are in Christ. Your mind is not a safe guide to who you are in Christ. The Word of God is the only safe guide (along with the Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus Christ). You will find reference to these three witnesses in 1 John 5:8-9.

You were alienated and an enemy of God in your mind before you received Jesus as LORD. Now, you must not let your mind stop you from living and walking in Him. It says in Colossians 2:6, **"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him."**

In 2 Corinthians 5:7, it says, **"(For we walk by faith, not by sight,)"** *"not by the seeing of our eyes, nor the hearing of our ears"* (Isa. 11:3). We must walk by the Word of God, led by the Spirit of God.

Because of who we are in Christ, and what God has made us to be in Christ, we must enter

into the presence of God boldly, by the blood of Jesus Christ and make our request known. We must pray to the Father in Jesus' name; knowing and believing our prayer is answered.

Jesus said in John 14:13-14,

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

We must believe what Jesus said, based upon the statement He made to us. He said, He will do it, "**that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**" He didn't say it had anything to do with what you have or have not done in the past. The answer to your prayer is only based upon Jesus wanting the Father to be glorified in the Son.

Our mind is the battle field. We must win the battle in our mind by believing the Word of God as to "who we are in Christ." Who God says we are, and what God says He will do. What Jesus says He will do, if we ask. It is not based upon what we think in our natural mind. It is based upon the Word of God concerning us, in Christ, and His grace which He abounded to us in Christ.

For the Scriptures says in Ephesians 2:8-9,

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Our works are not even considered when it comes to answering our prayers. God does not look upon our good works before He answers our prayers. He looks upon us in Christ, and see's us holy, unproveable, unblamable in His sight.

God answers our prayers according to our faith. His grace and our faith. Nothing else is considered when it comes to God answering our prayers. For we are the righteousness of God in Christ when we believe (Rom. 3:22).

Hebrews 4:16 says, "**Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**" Mercy and grace will be granted to us if we come boldly unto the throne of God, asking what we have need of and receiving it by faith.

So, why ask? That you might have that which is rightly yours according to the Word of God and God gets glorified in the Son. Give God the glory! Let God be glorified in the Son.

Change your ways, and ASK, that your joy may be full, that God the Father will be glorified in the Son? Will you glorify God, by ASKING, whatsoever you have need of in accordance to the will of God? If you will, Jesus will be glorified, the Father will be glorified in the Son.

This is God's will for you! Jesus said, "**ask, and it shall be given!**" Believe Jesus, and Ask! In Jesus' name!

Don't forget what James said, "**you have not, because ye ask not**" (James 4:2). SO ASK!

"That you may receive, that your joy may be full!"

In asking, we must understand that faith is a way of life. **"We live by faith!"** Faith is not the same as believing in our mind. The words faith and believe are used throughout the Bible. They are two different words with similar meanings. To understand faith we need to understand the progression that leads to faith.

There are three steps to faith. (1) Hope. (2) Believe. (3) Faith. We receive hope by two forms, by hearing the word of God and by seeing the evidence of both the goodness of God and the wickedness of evil. When we experience evil, disaster, depression, constant battles against our being, and our mind we look in hope for a change.

Many people who do not know God, cry out in despair and hope that there is a God somewhere that can help them. Crying out to God can come from experiencing evil and not being able to get relief. This then turns a person to hope for help. Many times people go to people for help, hoping to receive some type of help. This may be for help from abuse, alcohol, drugs, depression, etc., even financial problems. They place hope in these individuals. That is, they hope for some type of help. The world cannot give them lasting help, but many times they do not know how to find God **"though He is not far from anyone of us"** (Acts 17:27).

Once a person is introduced to God; that is, knows that there is a true God in heaven, and the LORD, who is the Creator of heaven and earth, then they can apply this hope that they have in the second step; that is, believing. This believing must be based upon the Word of God. This believing in the New Testament must be in Jesus Christ, the Son of God also. Believing starts with hope, then comes the believing; even unto salvation (Rom. 10:9-10) and being born again (John 1:11-13, 3:3-7).

We believe and confess unto salvation (Rom 10:10), and we believe unto eternal life. As an example, Jesus said in John 5:24, **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."** In this verse Jesus said it is the believing on the Father that sent Him into the world that brings about eternal life. In John 6:47, Jesus said, **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."** Therefore, believing on Jesus brings eternal life.

Hope and believing lead to faith. In the Old Testament it speaks of Abraham, one of whom God used as an example for all who have faith. Abraham believed God. Romans 4:3 says, **"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."** How did Abraham believe God that God should speak so highly of him? Romans 4:18 says, **"Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be."**

The believing of Abraham began with hope. Even against hope, Abraham still believed according to what the LORD had spoken. This is where faith and believing come together. Believing

is simple when we can hear, see, feel, touch, and taste. We hear the Word of God and we believe. But for faith to work it must go beyond the believing stage into believing; beyond hope. That is, believing beyond the natural abilities of man. Believing beyond hope, beyond things not seen, beyond the things that exist. Faith believes when there is no hope. "Faith believes in the supernatural, not just the natural." "Faith believes in God, not in man!"

This is where Christians are mostly defeated; where the devil steals, kills, and destroys Christians. When Christians put faith in man, it fails. JESUS NEVER TOLD US TO "HAVE FAITH IN MAN!" Jesus said, "**Have faith in God!**" (Mark 11:22) Faith in man is an operation of hope and believing. Faith in God goes beyond the natural abilities of man.

All over the world Christians are asking other Christians to help them. They should be asking God, in faith! Jesus didn't say "ask other Christians!" Jesus said, Ask the Father, or Ask in His name!

The Word of God declares, "**The just shall live by faith**" (Rom. 1:17). Faith must be in God, not in man. God may use men, or women to supply our needs, but our faith must not be in men or women "But in God."

Something else that should be understood about faith, faith comes from God (Rom. 10:17,12:3, Heb. 12:2, Jude 1:20). How do we get faith from God? First we draw nigh unto God, seek Him while He can be found. James 4:7-8 says,

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

Faith comes when we submit ourselves unto God and draw nigh unto Him. We must seek Him diligently. As it says in Hebrews 11:6, "**But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**"

What we need to understand is, faith comes from God; our faith must be in God. It is a way of life, This eliminates us trying to use faith for our own purposes and only when we have a special need. Faith is a way of living, not something we use once in a while to receive the desires of our mind, and the flesh. Faith comes from God for His purpose, that we can do His will.

In living by faith, remember, Jesus said, Ask the Father, and He will do it! Or Ask Him and He will do it.

Let us look at some of the times Jesus told us to "Ask." Let us pay attention to who Jesus said to "Ask." In Matthew 7:7-11 Jesus said,

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

**Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?
If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?**

Notice that Jesus is not talking about asking people, He is talking about asking our Father in heaven.

In Matthew 18:19-20 Jesus said,

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

In John 14:13-14 Jesus said,

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

In John 15:7 Jesus said, "**If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**" In John 15:16 Jesus said, "**Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**"

In John 16:23-24 Jesus said,

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Jesus never told us to ask people for what we have need. He always told us to Ask the Father, or Ask in His name. Now with understanding of hope, believing, and faith; let us continue to contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3). Let your asking be in faith. Ask the LORD, or Ask the Father, and they will give to you whatsoever you ask, believing and not doubting in your heart.

The LORD always rewards those who ask in faith; "that is, ask Him, believing, and not wavering." Therefore, "**ASK THE LORD!**"

THE CONCLUSION

To come to a conclusion on asking the LORD, we must first come to an understanding of who the LORD is. Jesus said in John 5:39, "**Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.**"

Knowing that the Scriptures are the inspired Word of God (2 Tim 3:16), let us search to find what they say about Jesus Christ.

In the gospel of John it says,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same (Jesus) was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made (John 1:1-3).

In John 1:10 it says, "**He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.**" This tells us that it was Jesus who created the world. Colossians 1:16 says, "**For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.**" There are many other Scriptures that tell us that Jesus created the heavens, the earth, and all that is within; the Father and the Holy Spirit working through Jesus.

Jesus is the "Word of God" by which all things were created. Then in John 1:14 it says, "**And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**"

There are many other Scriptures that testify of Jesus Christ being the Son of God. So let us see the position that Jesus Christ holds today.

In Mark 16:19 it says, "**So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.**" In Romans 8:34 it says, "**Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**" In Colossians 3:1 it says, "**If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**" In Hebrews 10:12 it says, "**But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.**" In 1 Peter 3:22 it says, "**Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.**"

These all speak of Jesus Christ being at the right hand of God. Peter said that "**angels and authorities and powers are made subject unto him.**" In Philippians 2:9-11, it says,

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in

earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:20-22,

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things.

These are only a few of the Scriptures that bare witness of Jesus Christ. Then Jesus Himself, spoke and said in Matthew 28:18, "**All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**" To the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, Jesus said,

Fear not; I am the first and the last:

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Rev. 1:17,18).

All of these and many other witnesses have we of who Jesus Christ is, and the position He holds in creation. Therefore, we must decide who we will believe, Jesus Christ, or the thoughts that come to our mind? The Word of God tells us in 2 Corinthians 10:5, to "**Cast down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.**"

The knowledge of God is revealed in the Word of God, the Bible. Therefore, understanding that the god of this world blinds our minds so we do not believe the truth of the Gospel of Christ (2 Cor. 4:4), we must cast down (get rid of) **all thoughts that do not agree with the truth.**

Jesus said in John 14:6, "**I am the Truth!**" Therefore, we must believe Jesus Christ above all other thoughts that come to our mind. We must bring all our thoughts into subjection to the Word of God, the Words of Jesus Christ! Jesus said in John 6:63, "**It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**"

Jesus also told us in John 8:44 that "**the devil is a liar, the father of lies...**" So who will we believe? Let us learn to believe Jesus Christ and reject (refuse) all thoughts that come to our mind that do not agree with the words of Jesus, our LORD, or the Word of God. Cast them down (refuse to receive them), bring them into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER

In the world, when they discovered how to build jet airplanes they also discovered that there is a sound barrier that must be broken to fly at high speeds. When a jet airplane reaches a speed of about 600 miles per/hour the speed of the airplane catches up with the sound of the engines (which before that time traveled ahead of the airplane; or faster than the airplane was traveling. When this happens, the sound causes a vibration in the airplane and all surrounding objects. The airplane begins to shake and vibrate violently. If the airplane is close to houses at the time the vibration can cause the windows in the house to shatter and break. At the point of breaking the sound barrier there is a tremendous violent force from both directions as the sound from the airplane comes against the sound in front of the airplane.

But, once the airplane exceeds the speed of sound the vibration and violent shaking and shattering stops and the airplane travels at high speeds with ease. From that point on, the airplane can exceed the speed of sound by many times without experiencing any reaction from the sound barrier.

So it is in prayer and receiving an answer to your prayer. When you pray, asking the LORD for whatsoever you have need, the praying is easy. It is like asking a close friend, or someone you know very well to help you in a minor task. But, as you then wait for the answer, standing in faith, there is a "fight of faith" (2 Tim. 6:12); all hell breaks loose in your mind. The spiritual forces attack your mind with all kinds of doubt, thoughts that God will not give you what you asked for, all the alternative ways you could go if you do not get what you prayed for, etc. This battle in your mind will continue for hours, even for days, even longer at times. This is the battle of the breaking point. The spiritual forces will try to break your faith, to get you to give up, to not continue to stand fast and fight the good fight of faith. This is the time when you need to tell the devil "he is a liar; Jesus cannot lie!" Don't give in to the devils lies, and deceitful thoughts!

Oh how wonderful it is and the ease and joy that comes after you break the barrier in your mind, holding fast to what you prayed for. The battle will be over after the trying of your faith (James 1:3), and the victory will be won. You will receive whatsoever you prayed for if you continue to press on for the answer, refusing to accept anything less than what you asked for in faith. O how wonderful it is after the battle is over. But what a battle, when all the forces of darkness come against your mind to destroy your faith! Don't give up and lose the victory, the great reward for your confidence and faith!

Keep in mind all that Jesus taught us by what He said and did. Remember, in John 14:12-14, He said,

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

First Jesus said that we, you and I, would do greater works than He did. Then He told us "Why we would do greater works!" Then He went on to explain "How we would do the greater works!"

Jesus said, "**whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do!**" Then He repeated it again, saying, "**If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**" Therefore, when we pray and ASK THE LORD, we must believe in what Jesus said.

One thing I noticed in studying the Scriptures, "Jesus cannot lie!" He said, "*Whatsoever we ask in His name He will do it.*" When we ask according to the Will of God (1 John 5:14), and the Words of Jesus; believing that we have whatsoever we desire (Mark 11:24), and doubting not (Mark 11:23), it shall be done (John 14:13,14)!

The one thing we often miss is the controlling of our thoughts after we ask. We must, therefore, after we ask "take authority over our thoughts (2 Cor. 10:5)," don't let the devil steal from us (Mark 4:15) what we have already received (Mark 11:24) (from God in the spirit (Rom. 4:17), before we see it in the natural (Rom. 4:18)). Stand therefore (Eph. 6:14-17) with our heart and mind set, "*Jesus cannot lie, the devil is a liar;*" therefore, I have what I asked for and I will not give up my confidence which produces such a great reward (Heb. 10:35-36)!

So be of good courage, strong in your faith, that you may do the greater works (John 14:12) for our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ!

First, before you pray, be sure you have peace in your spirit, then find Scriptures that tell you what to ask for. Then ASK IN JESUS' NAME!

Following our asking, we must take control of all thoughts that come to our mind. Tell the devil, "It is written," (quote the Scripture where it is written). We must reject, cast down and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ, "the Words of Jesus, and the Word of God."

This could be our procedure when we ASK!

LORD Jesus, You said that "with God all things are possible, nothing is impossible for God." You said, "All things are possible to them that believe!"

LORD Jesus, I am now asking in Your name according to Your Word and the Word of God that You (quote the Scripture/reference). I now believe it is done according to Mark 11:24, and I therefore refuse to accept any thoughts that would cause doubt or unbelief.

Satan, I come against you in the name of Jesus Christ. I come against any thoughts that do not agree with the prayer I just prayed. I stand forever, casting down all thoughts that would bring doubt or unbelief to my mind. Therefore, I command you in the name of Jesus to flee from my mind.

LORD, I thank You, that You are the truth, and Satan is a liar. Therefore I believe You and reject all thoughts that come against my mind.

Father I will give You the glory for all that is done in my life. You are the God of all creation, the Father of my LORD Jesus Christ. To You be the glory forever and ever!

After we have prayed and asked the LORD, we should at all times give God the glory. Continue to thank and praise God for the answer is already here. We have already received the answer in the realm of the spirit; the manifestation in the natural is on its way. Although we cannot see it with our physical eyes, we know by the Word of God, it's already here.

Hold fast to your confession and you will see the manifestation of what you asked for. Never stop praising and thanking God for the manifestation; for God inhabits the praises of His people.