

The Glory of Asking and Receiving

I. One of the greatest revelations found in the teachings of Jesus is that God wants us to ask and receive blessings from Him (John 16:22-28).

- A. "That day" (John 16:23) started when Jesus died for our sins and proved He was God by rising from the dead. Since then, there has been unparalleled beauty and joy in asking and receiving things from God.
- B. Communion with Jesus produces the good fruit of answered prayer (John 15:7-8) and glorifies the Father. When we take delight in the Lord, He gives us the desires of our heart (Psalm 37:3-4).
- C. Wrong desires come from communing with the wrong father (James 4:1-6).

II. Everything starts with believing God and His promises (John 14:1; 6-14). Jesus said, "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it" (John 14:14).

- A. Hebrews 11:6 defines what it is to know and please God.
- B. Jesus takes every believer on faith journeys to teach us to pray, trust, and receive. Over time we begin to know the Lord better (Matthew 18:18-20).
- C. Partnership with God deepens as we learn to persist (Matthew 15:21-28).

III. Jesus is the true vine. We bring forth fruit by embracing his lifestyle (John 15:1-8). "Ask whatever you wish" (John 15:7).

- A. It is easy to partner with God's heart when we like the same stuff (John 15:7-8).
- B. We are God's handiwork created to ask for and do great works (Ephesians 2:10).
- C. Christians are made to call out for "great and unsearchable things." We are made to ask for the great purposes and designs God has for our city, nation, and the whole earth (Jeremiah 33:3; Matthew 9:36-38; Matthew 24:14).

IV. God's love releases a freedom to do the Master's business and make requests as His friends (John 15:7-8, 13-16).

- A. "We love, because He first loved us" (I John 4:19).
- B. Tangible hugs ("phileo" love from our Father) make us sensitive to the needs of those around us (John 5:19-20). It is easy to pray for people from this position.
- C. The love of parents helps us understand God's response to us (Luke 11:9-13).

*Mike Hudgins,
September 10, 2023*