

The Beauty and Joy 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 16:22-27).

- A. Our communion with God produces good desires of the heart and confidence to ask and receive (John 15:7-8; Psalm 37:1-8).
- B. Wrong desires come from communion with the wrong father (James 4:1-6). One of the saddest scriptures in the Bible is: “You do not have, because you do not ask God” (James 4:2).
- C. In Jesus’ last address to His disciples, just before He was arrested and killed, He mentioned asking and receiving five times (John, Chapters 14 - 17).

II. Everything in your relationship with Jesus starts with trusting God and His promises for your life (John 14:1; 6-14; Hebrews 11:6).

- A. Jesus takes every believer on faith-building journeys where we learn to pray, trust, and receive, just as He did with the first disciples.
- B. A divine partnership forms as we sense how much God makes Himself vulnerable to our requests (Matthew 8:5-10).

III. Jesus is the true vine. We become fruitful by embracing his words and commands (John 15:1-8).

- A. Our first command is to receive God’s forgiveness (cleansing) by faith (Ephesians 2:8-10; I John 1:8-9).
- B. How can two walk together unless they are in agreement? (Amos 3:3; Matthew 18:18-20).
- C. Small, “religious” ways of looking at God’s commands sometimes hinder us from asking for more meaningful or personal things God desires for your future.
 - 1. Personal, unique dreams and good works (Ephesians 2:8-10)
 - 2. Praying to do beautiful deeds (Matthew 5:14-16; 26:6-13)
 - 3. Praying into the great purposes and designs God has for the whole earth (Matthew 24:14; Jeremiah 33:1-3)

IV. Experiencing God’s love releases a freedom to know the Master’s business, and to make requests as His friends (John 15:5-17).

- A. “We love, because He first loved us” (I John 4:19).
- B. Tangible hugs (“phileo” love from the Father) produce sensitivity to the needs of people around us (John 5:19-20).
- C. The love fathers and mothers have for their children (Luke 11:9-13)

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