

ASK and RECEIVE

**Jesus said, “ASK, (continuous tense), and it shall be given you;” Matthew 7:7
“For everyone that continues to ask RECEIVES.” Matthew 7:8**

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In 1979, in the city of Whangarei, New Zealand, I was jogging on the streets just before the evening meal. As I was jogging along Jesus started running beside me. He spoke to me two verses of John's Gospel. **“In that day, (when I have risen from the dead), you will ask Me nothing. Truly, truly, I say unto you, Whatsoever you shall ask the Father in My Name, He will give it to you. Up till now you have asked nothing in My Name: ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.” John 16:23,24**

Later that evening we had a Home Group Bible Study, at the home where I was staying. When I shared what Jesus had said to me, the members of the Home Group had very great difficulty in believing what I had said. There were all kinds of reasons why the words of Jesus could not be taken literally. Thankfully there was an older pastor present who backed me up, or I would have been a lone voice. That is why Jesus sent His disciples out in twos. Mark 6:7, Luke 10:1. The witness of two is much more powerful than the witness of one. 2Corinthians 13:1

The truth is that through Jesus Christ, every need that we have, has already been supplied. Philippians 4:19, Ephesians 1:3, 3:19, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 6:26, (sparrow “faith”), John 4:14, John 6:35, John 10:10, John 14:6, Matthew 7:7-11, Mark 11:22-24, Luke 11:9-13, Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 4:16, Psalm 23:1, Psalm 34:10, Psalm 36:8,9, Psalm 84:11, Psalm 145:16

Keep Pressing into God Who is the Source of All Life. He Loves Us and Chooses Our Highest Good

In the Matthew 7:7-11 passage, it is ask and keep on asking and we will receive. Do not give up!

It is God's will for us to receive.

We do know how to give good things to our children.

How much more will God give good things to those who ask Him.

God's ability and desire to do good to His creation is far greater than ours. Matthew 6:26

When I was a young boy I wanted a bike. My father had his old one under the house. I was asking him day and night to fix it for me. Eventually he did. I think it was to stop me bothering him, and to give him peace. But I had a bike.

Be Persistent, Shameless and Bold in your Asking

Jesus said a similar thing in Luke 11:5-8, the parable of the persistent friend. He wanted some bread for a late night visitor. So he went next door to his neighbour friend. At first the neighbour friend would not get up and give him the bread he needed. **But because of his shameless, bold, persistent asking**, the neighbour friend arose and gave him all he wanted. **Immediately after this**, Jesus said, “I say unto you, ask and go on asking and you will receive.” Luke 11:9

A Possible Reason for Continuing to Ask and Seek God

As a thirty year old I was praying for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. My Scripture was Luke 11:13, where it says that God is more willing to give us the Holy Spirit than we are to give good gifts to our children. For about six months I earnestly prayed, every night, before going to bed, for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Sometimes I would cry as I prayed. Nothing happened. **But one night I saw a vision.** It was a vision of one word, **“GIFT”**. It was in gold letters. I did not know that the Baptism with the Holy Spirit was a gift. I had been thinking I had to be more holy to receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. After I adjusted my thinking, **I received** the Baptism with the Holy Spirit as a gift.

I spent the next week thanking God for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Within one week my life was transformed. I had a much greater joy in the Lord. God's Word was a new Book of revelation to me, when I read it each day. I had a greater boldness to tell others about Jesus. The power of sin in my life was greatly decreased. The gifts of the Spirit started to appear in my life. Everything changed. I had been baptized with the Holy Spirit.

At 79 years old I am still rejoicing in this gift, and greater fullness of God's presence in my life.

In the Mark 11:22-24 passage, verse 22, in the Greek, it says, **“Have the faith of God.”**

Mark 11:23 emphasises the importance and power of speaking out the creative Word of faith that is in our heart.

The Holy Spirit reveals a Word from God into our heart as we seek Him. As we believe this Word in our heart and declare it with our mouth, the Holy Spirit brings it to pass. This is the Spirit of Faith. 2Corinthians 4:13, Psalm 116:10.

The creative work of God is performed, as God speaks. Genesis 1:3, Jeremiah 1:12, Matthew 8:8, Isaiah 55:11, John 11:43.

Mark 11:24 emphasises the importance of **RECEIVING** what God has said to us by His Spirit. Jesus said, **“Believe that you receive it, and you will have it.”**

We are to believe that we have received the Word, God has spoken into our heart.

As above, I thanked God for a week for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, and it became a reality in my life.

Faith is believing in our hearts, that we have received what God has said to us, before we see it come to pass.

Feelings and outward circumstances often say the opposite and we have a battle on our hands.

This is the “Battle of Faith.” 2Timothy 4:7

RECEIVING what God has said, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, is an important step in the life of faith.

This enables us to keep thanking God, that we have received the needed mercy and grace to meet our need before it appears. Hebrews 4:16

The issue is, can we continue to believe what God has said to us, until the need is met?

Believing that we have RECEIVED, Mark 11:24, is a foundation upon which we can continue to believe in our hearts, and declare with our mouths, the Word the Lord has spoken to us. Psalm 116:10, 2 Corinthians 4:13, Romans 10:6-10, Deuteronomy 30:11-14, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3, Hebrews 10:23, Hebrews 3:1, Mark 11:23 (The Hebrew word translated “meditate” means to think about something by speaking to your self.)