

LIVING UPRIGHT IN AN UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD
#19 – PLUG INTO THE POWER OF THE A.S.K. PRAYER-ACTION PROCESS

Intro: How does God supply your needs? Jesus gives us the way in his Ask-Seek-Knock prayer-action process.

(Jesus said) Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:7-12

I. Use Christ's A.S.K. Process For Needs

- Christ's Ask-Seek-Knock process is a _____ process of prayer, faith, and action where God supplies our needs His way.
- **A**sk – First, go to God in prayer to give the _____ to Him to deal with. Sometimes He will tell us the request is not His will and we must make adjustments. Sometimes He answers the need directly by providing, or saying no or wait. Most of the time, He will use our efforts to fulfill His provision, so.....
- **S**eek – Next, we will often need to _____ with God to seek for the answer under His guidance. This is faith-action and requires our time and effort to do our part.
- **K**nock – When the door of _____ seems to present itself, we “knock” – attempt possession of God's possible (or probable) answer. IF the door isn't “opened” to you, it isn't God's will (possibly at that time). You then continue the A.S.K. process until the right door is opened.
- **Warning:** Do not misunderstand this passage as saying that God _____ give you anything you ask for. The A.S.K. process only works if your request and action are “in sync” with God's will. Neither should you misunderstand it as meaning God will provide if you “seek” and “knock” on your own.

II. Believe in God's Promise to Respond

- Believe in God's promise to respond to our **Ask-Seek-Knock** prayer-action every step of the way. This requires our _____ - trust in God's guidance and provision. Every step we take into an uncertain future is a step of faith. Walk by faith, not by sight (II Corinthians 5:7).
- Our faith is shown as we _____ **Ask-Seek-Knock** before the guidance and provision is given. We place ourselves in the situation where if God doesn't come through – we're through!
- When we _____ believe in God's promise to provide, we're wasting our time with the A.S.K. prayer-action process.

III. Understand God's Perspective as the Gift-Giver

- What do we really believe about God? Some see God as a stern taskmaster who is arbitrary and _____ regarding how He takes care of us. Others see God as distant and unconnected to His creation. He's uninvolved and we're on our own.
- God sets the record straight – He cares for us so much He is our Heavenly Father. Caring for every _____ (like a good father would) with the unlimited resources of Heaven to provide for our needs. If our earthly father cares and provides in limited ways, how much more will our Heavenly Father do?
- God gives good gifts – God's response is a gift, given out of loving concern, to His children who haven't earned or _____ it. The gifts are good – what's best for us, even when we don't see that. However God responds is "good."

IV. Practice Christ's "How to Deal with People" Principle

- How can anyone remember all of God's teachings on how to treat people – forgiving them, loving them, caring for their needs? Jesus gives us the "how to deal with people" principle- A.K.A. The Golden Rule. The Golden Rule works in _____ situation when there is uncertainty on how to treat others.
- The concept was not _____. It has been stated in negative form for hundreds of years beginning with the Chinese philosopher Confucius, "What is hateful to you, do not do to anyone else." Jesus turned it into a positive principle. He is the God of "do's" as well as "don'ts." Christ's way requires action, not just restraint.
- Christ's "how to deal with people" principle governs our actions even when people treat us _____. It's not what they do to us that controls our response, but the way we would like to be treated. This principle is a logical real world way to fulfill The Great Commandment to love God and our neighbors (Matthew 22: 37-40)

Answers: I. Progressive; need; partner; opportunity; must. II. Faith; confidently; don't. III. Unfair; need; deserved. IV. Every; new; badly.