AND YOU

GOD HOLDS THE ANSWER MATTHEW 7:7-8

Matthew 7:7-11

⁷ Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opered to you.

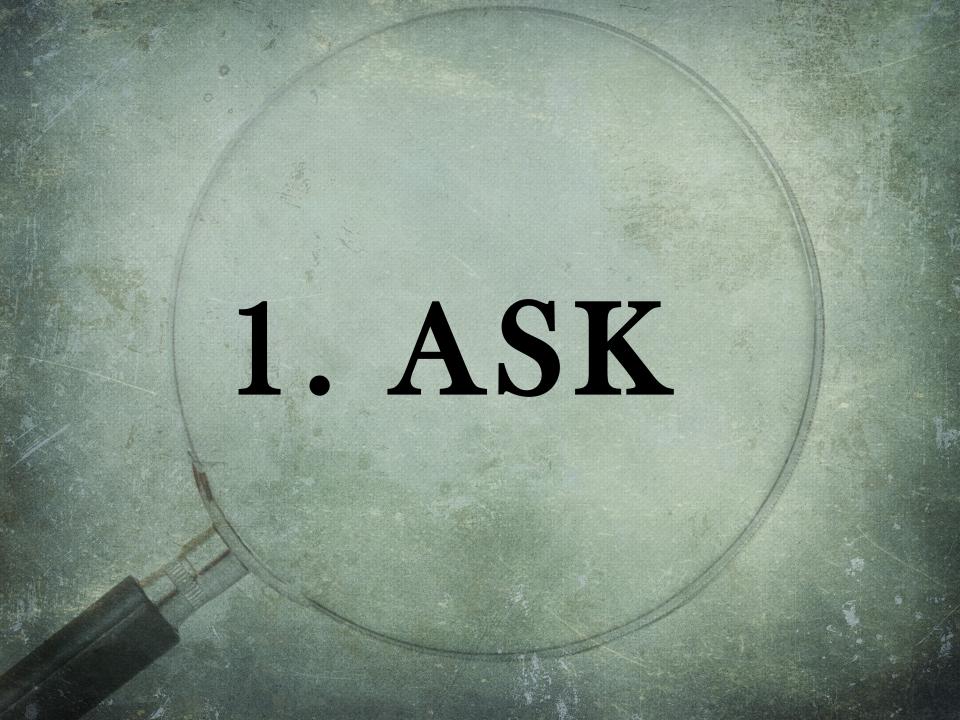
Matthew 7:7-11

⁸ For everyone who keeps on asking receives; and he who keeps on seeking finds; and to him who keeps on knocking, [the wor] will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-11

⁹ Or what man is there of you, if his son asks him for a loaf of bread, will hand him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will hand kim a serpent?

11 If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good and advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father Who is in heaven [perfect as He is] give good and advantageous things to those who keep on asking Him!



ASK - means to:

Ask with urgency even to the point of demanding.

Attitude of suppliant – petitioning of one who is lesser in position than he to whom the petition is made.

Present imperative - keep on asking, a continual act of devotion.

If God is the creator and we are the creation, we have to depend on him for life and provision. Independence is not an option for us. God existed without us, not vice versa. So the role that we must take in life is not only for dependency, but also against self-sufficiency. Our role is to recognise our limits and to transcend those limits by looking outside of ourselves for life. We are limited creatures, not the Creator, and therefore we are not self-sustaining as God is. Thus we are limited in our ability to live alone, apart from

John 1:12

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Phil 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

2. SEEK

SEEK (zeteo) means to:

- * Attempt to learn something by careful investigation or searching to desire to have or experience something or obtain something from someone
- *Seeking is asking plus acting, implying earnest petitioning coupled with an active endeavouring to fulfil needs
- * When you seek something, you rearrange your priorities so that you can search for what you desire until you find it.

Matt 13:45-46

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking/beautiful pearls, 4who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Thomas Manton:

"If we don't receive by asking, then let us seek; if we don't receive by seeking, then let us knock." Follow up your prayer by the effort.

Luke 5:16

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

3. KNOCK

Knock (krouo) means to rap at a door for entrance and thus implies an even greater and more repetitive intensity than either asking or seeking.

You can attend dozens of seminars on Christian living, participate in discipleship groups, and read all the good books on the subject including the Puritans. But if you are not regular in praying about your own spiritual needs and development, and persistently looking to the Lord for grace to follow Christ, then you will be sorely lacking in the practice of kingdom citizenship.



4. GOD WILL GIVE YOU WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU

Matthew 7:9-11 (Msg)

"Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-andmouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing. You're at least decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better?