

How much more will God Give Us – Part 1

Matthew 7:11, “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!” The Amplified says, “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!” The phrase, “How much more,” implies that any comparison between our natural fathers and our Heavenly Father is entirely inadequate. After all, it says of us as human fathers that we are evil. This distinction magnifies the divine character of God. **How much more!** How much more is our God able to give good gifts to His children!

The Life Application commentary on this verse says: “Jesus is showing us the heart of God the Father. God is not selfish, begrudging, or stingy, and we don’t have to beg or grovel as we come with our requests. He is a loving Father who understands, cares, and comforts. If humans can be kind, imagine how kind God, the Creator of kindness, can be.” Besides, if humans can be loving, how much more loving can the One who is love be (**1 John 4:16**)?

Jesus used the expression, “**If you, then, though you are evil,**” to contrast sinful and fallible human beings with a holy and perfect God.

“How Much More” is a true reflection of the Father’s heart. Therefore, as we reflect on the many aspects of what we ‘feel’ and ‘do’ as earthly fathers, it helps us catch a glimpse of our heavenly Father’s heart. It helps us to see in a way that we can understand and relate to Him. Yes, “how much more” our heavenly Father cares for us, “how much more” He feels about us, and “how much more” generous He is towards us, all effect the way He deals with us. And we need to really grasp this truth!

In **Luke 12:24** Jesus reiterates this actuality, “Observe and consider the ravens; for they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn; and yet God feeds them. Of how much more worth are you than the birds!” Again in verse 28 He says, “But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today, and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?” It’s interesting that Jesus considers anyone who does not embrace this truth as having “**little faith!**” Therefore, if we have the view that God will not do infinitely more for us than He does for nature itself, we have little or no faith. And, without faith it is impossible to please Him (Hebrews 11:6).

The Bible says that our God is able to do “*exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us*” (**Ephesians 3:20**). **How much more** is He able to do? He is able to do beyond all measure - far more than we could ever ask for, dream or imagine! Too many of us have a limited view of God’s greatness. We need to see the exceeding abundance of God’s love and power. Not just for ourselves but for everyone! He wants to bless us ‘beyond measure.’ So much so, that it is impossible to fully comprehend! As expressed by Paul, God’s ‘ability’ to do is “**exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**” (far beyond our imagination). Do you believe it?

Often things happen that are far beyond human imagination. In January 1984 a columnist named Louis Boyd described the amazing true story of a man named Jack Wurm. In 1949, Mr. Wurm was penniless and out of a job.

One day he was walking along a San Francisco beach when he came across a bottle with a piece of paper in it. As he read the note, he discovered that it was the last will and testament of Daisy Singer Alexander, heir to the Singer Sewing Machine fortune. The note read, "To avoid confusion, I leave my entire estate to the lucky person who finds this bottle and to my attorney, Barry Cohen. Share and share alike."

According to reporter, the courts accepted the theory that the heiress had written the note 12 years earlier, and had thrown the bottle into the Thames River in London. From there it drifted across the oceans to the feet of a destitute Jack Wurm. His discovery netted him over 6 million dollars in cash and \$80,000 a year from Singer stock. The point that I'm trying to make is that this story is far beyond what we can ask, think or image. Yet, according to this journalist, it did happen! Nevertheless, every time we think of God's 'ability', we are encouraged to go beyond the facts of this story. If "chance" can go that far, how much further can our Heavenly Father go! How much more can He give us good gifts!

This brings us to the next key that unlocks these blessings. Jesus said, "*How much more will your Father Who is in heaven give good and advantageous things to those who keep on asking Him*" (AMP). Asking is part of the promise! If you don't ask you don't receive! We must make it a point to "test" God and see how good He really is. James addresses the matter of why we lack and still want: "*Yet you do not have because you do not ask*" (James 4:2). How powerful an indictment is that? God has the ability and desire to do infinitely more than we can "ask or imagine," but He is prevented from doing so because we simply don't trust Him enough to ask!

In **John 16:24** Jesus says, "*Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*" When it comes to God's blessings, asking and receiving are inseparable! Asking is what makes the connection, and only after the connection has been made is God able to release the abundant blessings He has put aside for us. "*How much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him?*" Have you noticed how children have no fear of asking anything from their parents? They walk straight up to you, look you in the eye, and say, "*Can I have...?*"

In **Luke 11** Jesus tells the story of a friend that comes at midnight, and He said to them, "*Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence (insistence) he will rise and give him as many as he needs* (verse 5-8). In what way was this friend persistent or insistent? In his asking! He just kept on asking! Verses 9 and 10 confirm this, "*So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*"

With that in mind, let's ask ourselves this, "*How can I receive **much more** from God; so **much more** than I can ever ask, think or imagine?*" Also, "*How can I really be sure that God will come through for me?*" The answer is simple, ask and keep on asking! But you must ask in **faith**! **James 1:17** says, "*every good and perfect gift comes from above, and comes down from the Father of lights.*" Earlier (in verses 6 and 7), he insists that we should ask in faith because anyone who doubts should not expect to receive anything from God. James also points out the a doubter is

unstable in all his ways. If you want God to bless you 'beyond measure', you must *ask* (and keep on asking) in faith! Look again at what the Amplified version of our opening scripture says, *"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!"* We should all feel free to ask today, then ask tomorrow, and then the next day, and then the next, etc....

I'm aware that many of you may feel that asking, and then asking again, would be considered babbling, but you only babble if you ask without **faith**. When you are operating in faith it doesn't matter how many times you ask! Let's examine **James 4:2** again, *"Yet you do not have because you do not ask."* A literal translation reads, *"You do not have what you want because you are not asking."* Notice, it does not say, *"Because you have not asked"* (singular). Rather, *"Because you do not ask; or, "Are not asking."* This suggests an ongoing request or petition.

When you **ask** God for anything, always remember that He is faithful. When Jesus invited Peter to walk with Him on the water, Peter was able to do it (as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus). However, when he focused on his circumstances, looking at the waves around him and the water beneath him, he sank. When you **ask** God for His abundant blessings, focus on the fact that He wants to do **so much more** for you, rather than letting your faith be determined by your circumstances. So remind yourself that God is not limited by your circumstances. If you are rich in **faith**, there are no limits to what God can accomplish for you!

How much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him! It is important to understand that God always gives what is good (beneficial) and not what we think is good or right for us. God does not give gifts that will cause us harm. All good and perfect gifts come from above! But God desires that we ask **in faith**, believing Him, because this is the only reasonable thing to do. Thereafter, we need to trust that whatever God gives us is best, even if we don't understand it at the time. We need to place everything in His hands and let go. So let's exercise our **faith** and trust God, and not try second-guess Him. He has our best interests at heart! He is able (and willing) to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we may ask, think or imagine.

The literal translation (from the original Greek text) of **Matthew 7:11** is very inspiring... *"If you then, being evil, have seen how to give gifts that have a beneficial effect to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give gifts that have a beneficial effect on them that ask Him as a child."*

To end, here are the highlights of what we have discovered today:

- The heart of God the Father is to give beyond all measure.
- God the Father has the ability and desire to give exceedingly abundantly above what we can ask, think or imagine.
- In order to receive God's abundant blessings, we must ask as a child (and keep on asking).
- Nevertheless, we must ask in faith (trusting in His faithfulness).
- God the Father only gives us gifts that have an advantageous and very beneficial effect on our lives.

Now, (a) think of your needs; (b) think of various ways to meet those needs; (c) ask God the Father in Jesus' name to give you whatever is required to satisfy those needs.

Then, stir up an expectancy that God is going to do infinitely more than you can hope for, dream or imagine. This is the reality you should be living in. This is the reality by which you can ask God the Father for anything, and He will give it to you!

Finally, remind yourself of what Jesus said, ***“Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”*** The Lord wants us to receive that which will make our joy full!