

ASKING

“Pastor, how many times can I ask God for the same thing?” This is a question that probably goes through many people’s minds. However, Jesus dealt with this in Matthew 7:11... ***“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”*** (Amplified). Asking is part of the promise! If you don’t ask you don’t receive! You must make it a point to ask repeatedly and see how good God really is. James candidly addresses the matter of why we have 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, think 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.”*** I don't know about you but I would like my joy to be full! Well, the kind of joy Jesus is referring to is centered around asking and receiving! When it comes to God’s abundant 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 you. ***“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, look you in the eye, and say, “Can I have?” A child fully expects his/her parents to supply the need. This is the boldness God expects from us whenever we approach Him in faith.

If we are operating in **faith** it doesn’t matter how many times we ask! Mark 11:25 says, ***“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”*** It doesn't say how many times we need to ask, because it’s the believing that we have received which matters most! 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.”*** Again, 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. Therefore, when we **ask** God for His abundant blessings, let’s focus on the fact that He wants to do so much more for us, rather than letting our faith be determined by your circumstances. Let’s remind ourselves that God is not limited by our circumstances. Remember, there are no limits to what God can accomplish for us – provided we keep asking in faith.