

Day 9 Why Pray-Ask?

Asking puts you in partnership with God. If you ask someone to help you on a project, doesn't that mean the two of you will work together? As you work together you get closer and perhaps you become friends. How close does it put you with God when you fast and *pray-ask* for His help in the coming election?

You should *pray-ask* because God wants to be asked. Remember, Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7, *NKJV*). Don't parents enjoy their children asking them for something? Sure! Think about your Heavenly Father and how does it make God feel when you ask for something?

And what about your happiness? Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). To put Jesus' statement into contemporary words, "You are going to be happy when I answer your prayers" (John 16:24, *Amplified*). So if you fast and pray for 40 days and God answers us with this election, you will be happy; and so will God.

So, *pray-asking* leads to fellowship. When you *pray-ask*, you enrich fellowship with your Heavenly Father. When we ask our human parents, we get as close to them as possible and obey them simply to get the things we want. So *pray-asking* will deepen your relationship with God because you will get closer to Him and obey Him.

Also, remember that Jesus is standing at the right hand of God the Father in heaven making intercession for us (Heb. 7:24-25). So when we *pray-ask* in Jesus' name, we are asking Jesus to be our intercessor to the Heavenly Father. One last thing about praying in Jesus' name. When you were converted, you asked Jesus to come into your life (John 1:12), so *pray-ask* in Jesus' name because He lives in your heart. – by Elmer Towns©

-My Time to Pray-

- Lord, forgive my reluctance to ask You for big things; I ask for a miracle in this election.
- Lord, stretch my faith to ask You to do the biggest miracle I've ever experienced.
- Lord, I want to get as close to You as possible.

Day 10 Begin with Giving Thanks

I usually begin praying by saying, "Thank You, Lord, for hearing and answering my prayers." Why do I begin that way?

Thanksgiving puts you on praying ground. When you come into God's presence with a grateful heart, He recognizes your sincerity and listens to your request. The wonderful thing about thanksgiving is that it takes away self-centered living. You rely on other people to help you, and you rely on God.

The word "thanksgiving" comes from *eucharisteo*, the root meaning of "grace." When you tell someone "thank you," you are communicating "grace" to them and you receive "grace" from God.

Paul teaches us to attach thanksgivings to our prayers, "In everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6, *NKJV*). Did you see that "thanksgiving" comes before making "requests"? That's God's divine priority.

Giving thanks makes you obedient. Note how many times in the Psalms we are commanded to give thanks (see Ps. 30:4; 97:12; 105:1; 106:1; 47; 107:1; 118:1; 29; 136:1-3; 26). So when you pray with thanksgiving, you become obedient.

Paul said, "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving" (Col. 4:2, *NKJV*). Note how often Paul gave thanks (see Romans 1:8; 1 Cor. 1:4; Phil. 1:3; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Thess. 1:3; 1 Tim. 1:12; 2 Tim. 1:3; Philem. 4). Don't you realize that being thankful puts you close to the heart of God? Isn't that the place where we get answers to prayer? – by Elmer Towns©

-My Time to Pray-

- Lord, thank You for hearing me in the past, and answering my prayers.
- Lord, thank You for protecting me from danger . . . both known and unknown.
- Lord, thank You for my nation, its government and the leaders over me.