

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOW SHIP

Hearing God Because We Ask

*“Yet, you do not have **because** you do not ask.”*

James 4:2

*He goes on to explain **why** we sometimes don't have when we do ask*

- So, **what** we ask for, and **why**, are important
- But God **invites us** to ask of Him, even **commands** us to

*From **hearing Him in His Word**, and by **His Conduct**...*

*He is building us up **to hear Him** more and more clearly.*

Do you pray? (If not, maybe these thoughts will encourage you to)

*When you pray, **what do you pray for?***

- Intercession
- Direction
- Protection
- Provision
- Communion (With God)
- Wisdom
- Healing
- Relational Restoration (“Agree as touching anything” – **Matt. 18**)

*In **all of these**, what are we praying for?*

*Think **BIG** picture here...*

*If you're praying to God, **what are you praying for?***

*You're praying **for God to respond**, are you not?*

(If you're praying to tell Him what to do, I have nothing to offer)

*If we don't want Him to respond, **why pray?***

*So, **we pray to hear God**, don't we?*

*God wants us to be **confident of 3 things** when we pray:*

- That **He will hear us**
- That **He will respond**
- That **we will hear Him**

*How do we **become confident** of those things?*

***First** – By hearing Him **before** asking Him to hear us
(listening to what He has said already in **His Word**)*

***Then** – By observing **how He lives** to learn **His ways**
(How does He treat people? What are His priorities, i.e. – Family?)*

With those** – Ask Him according to His will – **I John 5:14

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

*How do we **banish doubt** that He hears us?*

***Psalms 66:18** - “If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”*

We cannot enjoy God's confidence while harboring sin

Avoid **James 4:3** - "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

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How do we know we're asking according to His will?

Practice asking for **what He has already promised**

Ask for what you **know already** He will give

- Wisdom – **James 1:5-6** and **Prov. 4 & 8**
- Peace – **John 14:27** & **Matt. 5:9** (receive to give)
- Rest – **Matt. 11:28-30** & **Heb. 4:9-10**
- Comfort – **Matt. 5:4** & **II Cor. 1:3-4**
- Righteousness – **Matt. 5:6**
- Mercy – **Matt. 5:7**
- Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control – **Gal. 5:22-23**
(Ask for **The Holy Spirit** – these are what you'll get first)

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The person God sees **He can trust with these**, He will trust with more

Matthew 25:23, "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; **you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.** Enter into the joy of your lord.'"

Matthew 7:7-8 - "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. **Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened** to you. For everyone who asks, receives.

Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

How often should we ask?

As often as we need. He told us to ask for food every day. (**Matt. 6:11**)

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God wants us to be confident when we ask

Confident **He will hear and respond...**

Confident **He will give what He promised.**

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How He will respond? Hold that with **open hands**, make **no demands**

- Last Tuesday evening

When He will respond? **We do not know.**

Jesus made promises He **does not know the timing** of

His return – "Not My place to know"

The marriage feast – "I don't have a green light"

He is **confident in The Father**, and calls us to join Him in it.

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Become **confident through experience** in asking for His promises

Learn to **recognize His voice** in His Word

When **He chooses to reveal more**, He will be confident in us...

And **we will recognize His voice** without doubt