

Making Requests

- When do we make requests? What do we ask for?
- A continuum of how likely we are to get it...

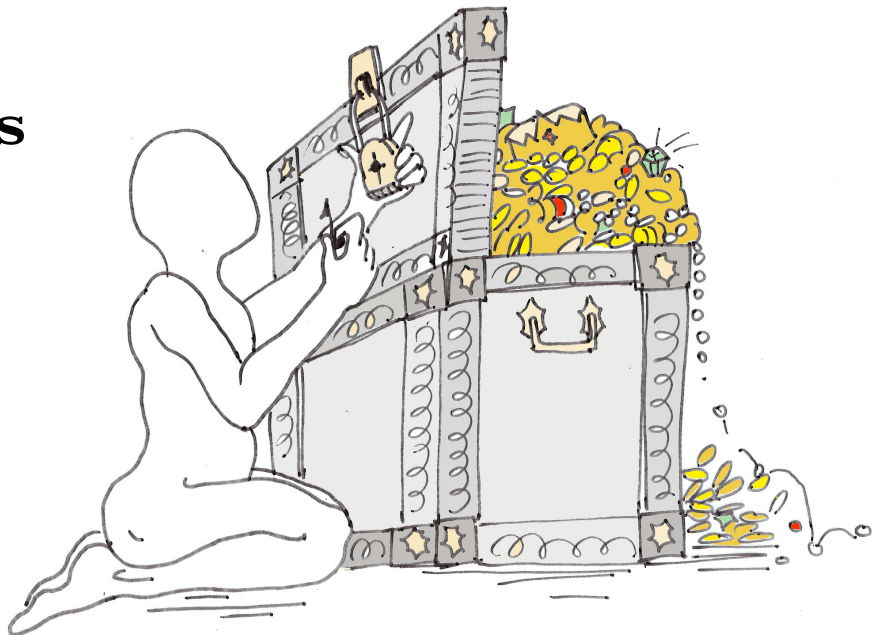
**NOT A
CHANCE!**

**OF
COURSE!**

- What makes it more likely that we'll receive what we requested?
- How does it work with God?

A Generous Father

Luke 11:1-13



Luke 11:1-13

1:

2-4:

5-8:

9-10:

11-13:

Jesus praying in Luke

Baptism: As he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. *3:21-22*

Pattern: Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. *5:16*

Choosing disciples: One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. *6:12*

Peter's confession: Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" *9:18*

Transfiguration: About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. *9:28-29*

Crucifixion: And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. *22:44*

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How much more will God!

Psalms 16

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."

16:2

You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

16:11

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How much more will God!

Especially the gift of Himself!!

The Big Idea

God is a good father
who is eager to give good gifts to His children
as they ask humbly
in submission,
with expectation,
and in recognition of our sins and others' sins

Opening a box...

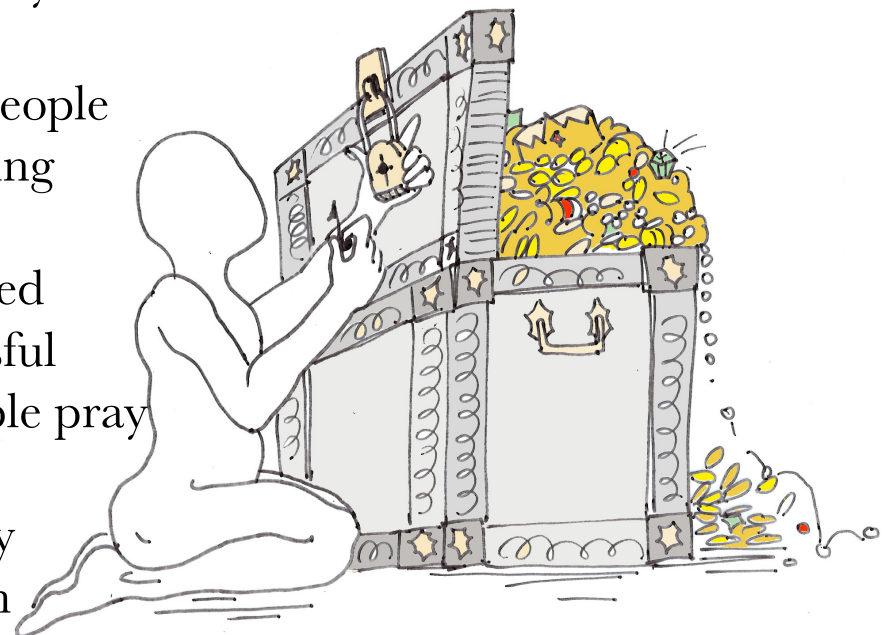


We expect **more** prayers to be answered for...

- holier people
- more eloquent people
- the harder working
- the smarter
- the more educated
- the more successful
- when more people pray
- ...

Rather: God eagerly
gives to His children

who ask humbly and with faith in Him



Application

Pray: Simply. Humbly. Expectantly.

Centered on God while including ourselves

- Good to ask for “stuff” (needs, health, job, ...)
- Remember: The greatest gift is God!

With expectation

Not “bugging God until He gives in”

- Rather, we pray BECAUSE God is
eager to answer and to give what we need

Prayer is...

- Speaking to God based on Jesus’ invitation & authority
 - Sometimes out loud, silent, written, sung, without words, ...
 - Using Jesus’ words or others’ words or our own
 - It is communication, not magic/special words
 - Whether spontaneous or intentional or structured or emotional or reasoned or ...

Prayer is...

- Speaking to God based on Jesus' invitation & authority
- Listening to God
 - The Bible: listen for God as you read
 - Quietening our hearts:
to hear the conviction of the Holy Spirit

Prayer is...

- Speaking to God based on Jesus' invitation & authority
- Listening to God
- Humble recognition: He is God, and we are not
 - **Pray first:** His will and His glory (not ours)
 - **Pray second:** His work in our lives and in our world
 - Because He is God, and we are not
 - Yet His love for us is greater than we can imagine!

Prayer is...

- Speaking to God based on Jesus' invitation & authority
- Listening to God
- Humble recognition: He is God, and we are not
- Good to be simple
 - My favorite prayer: “Peter was afraid, and he cried out, **‘Lord, save me!’**” *Matthew 14:30*
- Daily, plus...

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 who is eager to give good gifts to His children
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**IN WHAT PART OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU MOST WANT
 THE BLESSING OF GOD'S PRESENCE? ASK CONFIDENTLY!**

The Disciples' Prayer

Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

hallowed = honored, praised

Give us each day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.

***IN WHAT PART OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU MOST WANT
THE BLESSING OF GOD'S PRESENCE? ASK CONFIDENTLY!***