**Asking**

**And it shall come to pass,**

**That before they call, I will answer;**

**And while they are yet speaking, I will hear.**

 ***(Isaiah 65:24)***

 **Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive.
*(St. Matthew 21:22)*
And whatever you ask in my name,
I will do it for you,
so that the Father may be glorified through his Son.
*(St. John 14:13)*
If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.
*(1 John 5:14)***

**You ask and do not receive,**

**because you ask with wrong motives,**

**so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

***(James 4:3)***

**Never give advice unless asked. *(German proverb)***

**He who is afraid to ask is ashamed of learning. *(Danish proverb)***

**The truly amazing phenomena is that if you ask yourself for an answer or solution to a problem in an alert state of calm along with a positive expectation for the future, you will get an answer or solution to your question from within yourself. *(Sid Walker)*
First man: “I just found out that American Artist magazine is going to do a piece featuring my work.” Second man: “That’s quite an honor. How did that come about?” First man: “I called them up and asked them if they wanted to do an article on my work.” *(Tom Batiuk, in Funky Winkerbean comic strip)***

**If, after thinking about a hunch, you still need a little more assurance before launching forth into the unknown to attain it, realize that you can get that assurance just by asking for it. Ask for an indication or sign that you are going in the right direction. A powerful attitude of mind to establish at such times is this: “I choose this if it is for my highest good. If not, divine intuition now sends me the divine equivalent.” When doubts about your intuitive promptings arise, it is good to ask: “Divine intuition, just what is the perfect truth about this situation? Reveal it to me now, and make it so plain and clear that I cannot possibly mistake it.” *(Catherine Ponder, in The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity, p. 285)***

**Sometimes it’s better to ask one of the questions than to know all the answers. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I am prejudiced in favor of him who, without imprudence, can ask boldly. He has faith in humanity, and faith in himself. No one who is not accustomed to give grandly can ask nobly and with boldness. *(Johann Kaspar Lavater, Swiss theologian)***

**Don't spend your precious time asking "Why isn't the world a better place?' It will only be time wasted. The question to ask is "How can I make it better?" To that question, there is an answer. *(Leo F. Buscaglia, in The Way of the Bull)***

**Hell is the special favor of those who have asked for it insistently. *(Albert Camus)***

**John Ratzenberger, who played Cliff Clavin on Cheers, had auditioned for the part of Norm. When he didn’t get it, he asked the producers if they had a role for a bar know-it-all. They liked the idea and hired him. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 100)***

**Wisdom usually does not fall from high places. The mighty and the splendid have taught me little. I have learned more from my dog than from all the great books I have read. The wisdom of my dog is the product of his inability to conceal his wants. When he yearns to be loved, there is no pouting in the corner. There are no games entitled “Guess what is the matter with me.” He puts his head on my lap, wags his tail and looks up at me with kind eyes, waiting to be petted. No professor or sage ever told me I might live a more successful life if I simply asked for love when I needed it. *(Gerry Spence, in How to Argue and Wiu Every Time)*Sometimes it's easier to apologize than to ask for permission. *(The Friday Letter)***

**Thomas Alva Edison's first attempt at marketing an invention was an offer of a new stock ticker he had devised to the president of a large Wall Street firm. Edison wanted to ask $5,000, but he was only twenty-three and completely inexperienced, and his nerve failed him. He asked the president to make an offer, and the president offered $40,000. Edison learned the lesson of not asking too little, and that was probably more valuable to him than this particular sum. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 62)***

**When the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton hired Albert Einstein, the directors asked him to name his salary. He said he had no idea, maybe his wife could come up with a figure. It’s said he never bothered to ask her about it, and never knew. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**One who never asks either knows everything or nothing. *(Malcolm Forbes)***

**Though the past haunts me as a spirit, I do not ask to forget. *(Felicia Dorothea Browne Hemans)***

**The late Henry Ford once bought an insurance policy so large that it made headlines in the Detroit newspapers. A friend of Ford’s, who was also an insurance salesman, asked him, “Didn’t you know that I sell insurance?” “Yes, of course,” said Ford. “Then why didn’t you buy from me?” he asked. “You never asked me,” said Ford. Asking for what you want is an age-old success secret. “Ask and ye shall receive,” it says in the Bible. *(John D. Murphy, in The Magic of Getting What You Want)***

**My husband Fred, a state trooper, stopped a motorist for speeding. Instead of signing the ticket and continuing on his way, the driver, who said he knew he had been going over the posted limit, insisted on having a court hearing. On the appointed day, Fred and the man appeared before the district magistrate. Found guilty, the motorist happily paid his fine. Outside the courtroom, my husband asked him why he had bothered with a hearing. "I came to this country from Yugoslavia a few years ago," the man explained. "I never had the freedom to ask for a hearing. Now I do." *(Alice Day, in Reader's Digest)***

**It seems a man died and went to heaven. God met him and offered to show him around. So, God took him from room to room and showed him everything -- except for one room. Naturally the man wondered why he wasn't shown that room. “Why can't I see that room?” he asked God. “Oh, that's a very sad room,” God said, “a very sad room, I don't want to show you that room.” However, the man insisted and God finally gave in and agreed to show him the room. He unlocked the door and opened it. The man was amazed. The room was filled with gifts, beautifully wrapped gifts, from floor to ceiling. “Why, this is a wonderful room!” he said. “No,” God said, “It's a very sad room. These are all gifts I had for people, but they never asked for them!” *(Submitted by Heike Jennings)***

**Never be formal with God. He cares no more for forms and ceremonies than do the principles of mathematics for fine figures or elaborate blackboards. You cannot use God too often. He loves to be used, and the more you use Him the more easily you use Him and the more pleasant His help becomes. If you want a dress, a car, a house, or if you are thinking of driving a sharp bargain with your neighbor, going on a journey, giving a friend a present, running for office, or reforming a nation, ask God for guidance, in a moment of silent soul desire. *(Charles Fillmore)***

**Although he’s regularly asked to do so, God does not take sides in American politics. *(Senator George J. Mitchell)***

**We should ask of God things worthy of God. *(St. Peter Chrysologus)*I used to ask God if he would come and help me. And then I asked God if I might come and help him. And then I ended by asking God to do his own work through me. *(James Hudson Taylor)***

**I asked God to give me all things that I may enjoy Life – and God gave me Life that I may enjoy all things! *(Refrigerator magnet)***

**One must ask children and birds how cherries and strawberries taste. *(Goethe)***

**I called for help and there came to me a spirit of wisdom. *(The Wisdom of Solomon)***

**A small boy was trying very hard to lift a heavy stone. His father, happening by and noting the son's failure, said to him: “Are you using all your strength?” “Yes, I am,” the boy exclaimed impatiently. “No,” the father replied, “you are not. You haven't asked me to help.” *(Herm Albright, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Just keep asking, "God if I can't have what I want, then help me to know what it is you want me to have." Know in your heart there is a treasure much greater than the one you have been asking for." *(John E. Welshons, in When Prayers Aren't Answered)***

**Don Knotts (Barney Fife) had worked on Broadway with Andy Griffith. He was out of work when the show debuted, so he asked if he could play the part of a deputy. Griffith agreed, and Knotts went on to win five Emmies. *(Alan Lane, in TV Facts & Trivia, p. 57)*
The less you ask for, the harder it is to get -- not because of any stinginess of the Power, but by reason of its tremendous affluence. If you hold a pint cup in Niagara Falls you will come away with it empty -- not because of the lack of water, but because of too much water. The force of the water dashes everything out as fast as it gets in, because the measure is too small. Your limited vision of what belongs to you keeps you from having the abundance of Spirit. You can have it all. *(Walter Lanyon, in Abundant Living magazine)***

**If you have to ask the cost of owning a yacht, you can't afford it. *(J. P. Morgan)***

**You don’t need to take a person’s advice to make him feel good -- just ask for it. *(Laurence J. Peter, in Peter’s Almanac)***

**The following poem says it all. It was written by an anonymous soldier more than 100 years ago and was found on a battlefield during the Civil War. He knew the true meaning of Thanksgiving: “I asked God for strength that I might achieve, I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked for help that I might do greater things, I was given infirmity that I might do better things. I asked for riches that I might be happy, I was given poverty that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of man, I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things that I might enjoy life, I was given life that I might enjoy all things. I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all men, most richly blessed.” *(Ken Magid)*
Much of humanity considers prayer to be asking God for what we want. This is not true. Once we encounter the Almighty, asking ceases. *(Jim Rosemergy, in Unity magazine)***

**The hardest thing I have to do is follow the guidance I asked for. *(Albert Schweitzer)***

**You get better results when you ask for specific results. If you ask for a 10 percent cut in the cost of supplies, you may get it. If you just ask employees to watch out for waste in the use of supplies, nothing is likely to change. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Jimmy Stewart's entire collection of photos and memorabilia has been donated to Brigham Young University. When asked why he picked Brigham Young, Jimmy shrugged and said, “Nobody else asked me.” *(Don Freeman, in San Diego Union)***

**In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman. *(Margaret Thatcher)***

**Gloria Steinem, the writer and leader in the feminist movement, once learned an important political lesson as a student on a geology field trip. “I took geology because I thought it was the least scientific of the sciences,” she told an audience at Smith College, her alma mater. “On a field trip, while everyone else was off looking at the meandering Connecticut River, I was paying no attention whatsoever. Instead, I had found a giant, GIANT turtle that had climbed out of the river, crawled up a dirt road, and was in the mud on the embankment of another road, seemingly about to crawl up on it and get squashed by a car. So, being a good codependent with the world, I tugged and pushed and pulled until I managed to carry this huge, heavy, angry snapping turtle off the embankment and down the road. I was just putting it back into the river when my geology professor arrived and said, ‘You know that turtle probably spent a month crawling up that dirt road to lay its eggs in the mud by the side of the road, and you just put it back in the river.’ Well, I felt terrible. But in later years, I realized that this was the most important political lesson I learned, one that cautioned me about the authoritarian impulse of both left and right. Always ask the turtle.” *(Speechwriter’s Newsletter)***

**He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever. *(Mark Twain)***

**My father, an action-oriented person, was never known for his love of poetry. However, I’ll never forget the day he sat down with me to plan my college career. He said, “Laurie, I learned only one poem in school that stuck with me. Here it is: ‘I bargained with life for a penny, only to learn, dismayed, that any wage I would have asked of life, life would have paid.’” *(Laurie Beth Jones, in Jesus CEO, p. 16)*
Johnny Neill worked as musical director and musician for Lawrence Welk for three years during which time Welk asked him after an afternoon rehearsal in Fairmont, Nebraska, to write a theme song for the band. Mr. Neill went to a back booth in a cafe and wrote “Bubbles in the Wine,” which became Welk’s “champagne” theme song. *(Gary Gerhardt, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**Henceforth, I ask not for good fortune. I myself am good fortune. *(Walt Whitman)***

**The only reason why we ask other people how their weekend was is so we can tell them about our own weekend. *(Chuck Palahniuk)***

**To ask for another relationship or another job is not particularly helpful if we’re going to show up in the new situation exactly as we showed up in the last one. Until we’re healed of our internal demons, our fearful mental habits, we will turn every situation into the same painful drama as the one before. *(Marianne Williamson)***

**The word “ask” has a much broader meaning than is usually realized. A study of the root meaning of the word in the original Greek reveals a connotation of “claim” or “demand.” To ask for something in prayer is to accept it in consciousness, to lay hold of it. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover The Power Within You, p. 141)*
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