**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)***

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

**I asked the girl if she could bring a sister for me. She did, Sister Maria Teresa. It was a very slow evening. We discussed the New Testament. We agreed that He was very well adjusted for an only child. *(Woody Allen)***

**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)***

**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)***

**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)***

**Cats seem to go on the principle that it never does any harm to ask for what you want. *(Joseph Wood Krutch, in The Twelve Seasons)***

**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)***

**Children are wonderful except when one asks, “Dad, what is a coaxial cable,” and waits for a reply. *(The Friday Letter)***

**When our son Ron was in first grade, we helped him review his ABC’s and also learn some Scripture by making colorful cards with Bible verses on them. Each started with a letter of the alphabet. One December morning, just before leaving for school, Ron asked if he could have one of his Christmas presents. I answered, “Of course not. What makes you think that?” “Well, it says, ‘Ask, and it shall be given to you’,” he said. “I guess I should have gone to, ‘Seek, and ye shall find’.” He didn’t get an early gift that day, but he sure gave me a chuckle. *(Mrs. Frank Carlson, in Country magazine)***

**My wife asked for plastic surgery; I cut up her credit cards. *(Rodney Dangerfield)***

**Wife: “Aren’t you going to ask me how the first half of my day went?” Husband: “Why don’t we just wait until later, and we can cover both halves at once.” *(J. C. Duffy, in Go Figure comic strip)***

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**Nancy Pelosi was sworn in as the first woman speaker of the House in U.S. history, and she promised to take the country in a new direction. Since she’s a woman, Pelosi says the first thing she’ll do is pull over and ask for directions. (*Conan, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**The children of Israel wandered the desert for 40 years. Even in Biblical times, men wouldn’t ask for directions. *(Rumesa Khalid)***

**The devil says to the angel upon the angel’s arrival in hell: “Look, it’s not my fault you refused to ask for directions.” *(in Bound & Gagged comic strip)***

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**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)***

**My buddy Glenn invited me to lunch to meet his fiancee, Jennifer. As a surprise, I asked Becky, a mutual friend, to join us. At the last minute, Glenn called to say that Jennifer had some work to do, so they might be delayed. I told him that Becky was planning to meet us and it was too late to reach her with a time change. “Would your fiancee let you go to lunch with two women she doesn't know?” I teased. “Are you kidding,” Glenn responded. “I'm a man of the 90s.” “Does that mean you can come?” “No,” Glenn replied, “that means I have to ask.” *(Beverly A. Brice, in Reader's Digest)***

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

**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)***

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

**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)***

**My nephew recently moved his family from Phoenix to the countryside near Eagle, Idaho. One night while “camping out” in their new home, as they waited for their furniture to arrive, their young son Mac finally lost patience with his noisy new neighbors. “Mommy,” he begged, “please go out and ask the frogs to quiet down so I can go to sleep.” *(Hallette Meyer, in Country magazine)***

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**Son: “Mom, I made you a cup of hot tea and baked you those muffins you like.” Lola: “Beware of relatives bearing gifts you didn’t ask for.” *(Steve Dickenson & Todd Clark, in Lola comic strip)***

**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)***

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**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)***

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

**Daughter: “Did Daddy enjoy his golf game today?” Helga: “I didn’t ask because I used the ‘check the clubs’ rule.” Daughter: “What’s that?” Helga: “You check the clubs, and if there are any missing or broken, you don’t ask!” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar comic strip)***

**The Sunday School teacher said, “Ask and you shall receive. Everything comes from God.” The cute kid shook his head and responded, “I don't have to. When I want something, I just ask Grandma.” *(L. M. Boyd)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**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)***

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**The child says to his Mom: “Please, can I get a dog? Please? Please? Please? I promise I’ll train it not to bark all night or soil the carpet or chew up the furniture or dig up your garden or shed fur all over the house! Please? I’ve always wanted a pet! What do you say?” Later the other child says: “I can’t believe Mom bought you this super-fancy fish tank.” Child: “It’s all in how you ask.” *(Bill Amend, in Foxtrot comic strip)***

**Heart, while in the bathtub, asks her mother: “Hey, Mom, how long does it take for jello to set up?” Mom: “Dare I ask why?” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart of the City comic strip)***

**Frank says to Ernest: “I asked for a job where I could use my head, and they gave me a cap with the company logo.” *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**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)***

**Ask your child what she wants for dinner only if he’s buying. *(Fran Lebowitz)***

**Adult: “What’s in this stuff anyway?” Child: “Lemons and sugar.” Adult: “I can’t believe I just paid $1 for a tiny cup of plain old lemonade!” Child: “Hey, when life hands you lemons.” Adult: “Hand ‘em back and ask for a refund.” *(Steve Breen, in Grand Avenue comic strip)***

**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)***

**Man: “Gloria, what do you think of when I ask you what my hot, inviting lips remind you of?” Gloria: “The fact that you’re always ending your sentences with a preposition.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Fifty-six percent of consumers who called their credit card companies to request a lower interest rate got one, according to a recent study by MassPIRG. Such calls typically take five minutes and can save the average consumer hundreds of dollars a year. *(Child, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 20, 2005)***

**Some men were talking about life on Mars. “There can't be any life there,” said one. “The United States hasn't been asked for any money.” *(Claude McDonald, in The Christian Word)***

**Father: “Must you always be asking for money? It's time you learned there are things that are more important than money.” Son: “Yeah? How do you buy them?” *(Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

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

**Before starting the drive to see Penn State play Purdue last fall, I taped signs that read “Need One Ticket” to the inside of my car windows. As I was zipping along the Interstate, an unmarked police car pulled up beside me and the officer motioned for me to pull onto the shoulder. After writing out my citation, the officer handed it to me and pointed to the back window. “Well,” the state trooper said with a shrug, “you asked for it!” *(Norb F. Otto, in Catholic Digest)***

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

**A man from Maryland drove his car to New York City on business. Not being sure of the parking regulations, he asked a passing policeman if he could park where he was. The policeman said no. So the man asked, “How about these other cars that are parked here?” The policeman shrugged, “They didn't ask.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**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)***

**Grandpa: “What’s this thing?” Man running the yard sale: “It’s an electric brush. It’d make a nice groomer for your goatee.” Grandpa: “I can’t tell if this price tag says sixty-six cents or ninety-nine cents. Which is it?” Man running the yard sale: “If you have to ask, you can’t afford it.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**First man: “You know how I always ask you for a raise, but you always say no?” Second man: “What about it?” First man: “Well, I think we’re in a rut.” Second man: “I agree. So stop asking.” *(Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

**Delmar: “We like this house very much, but the landlord asks too much for the rent.” Elmer: “Really?” Delmar: “Yes. Last month he asked four times.” *(Park Fellers, in Reminisce magazine)***

**A small boy looked longingly at a friend's dog. “My mother won't let me have a dog for Christmas,” he said. “Maybe you don't use the right strategy,” replied his pal. “What strategy?” “Don't ask for a dog. Ask for a baby brother. Then you'll get a dog!” *(Union)***

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**Zoey: “I’m going to ask Santa for a CD player.” Hammie: “Why?” Zoey: “Hammie! I’m almost eight! It’s time to start asking for cooler toys. Besides, it’ll go perfectly with the other thing I’m asking for.” Hammie: “Which is?” Zoey: “Music that Mommy and Daddy can’t stand.” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**The child is kneeling at his bed and begins to pray: “I already asked Santa for these things, but I thought it couldn’t hurt to go over his head.” *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**While walking with his Mother, Billy sees the sign “Ask and You Shall Receive” in the store window and says to his Mother: “When are we goin' to see Santa Claus?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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

**You don’t always get what you ask for, but you never get what you don’t ask for . . . unless it’s contagious! *(Beverly Sills)***

**Many years ago, my wife and I were visiting our son, Norman, who was at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He roomed with 10 other students, all of whom had an assignment. Norman was in charge of maintenance, which was appropriate, as I was a plumbing contractor. In fact, when we arrived, Norman asked me to help him with a stopped-up bathroom sink. I put some rags and a bucket under the sink and removed the trap. The sludge that had been clogging the sink poured into the bucket. While I was still under the sink, I asked Norman to empty the bucket. He did – into the same trapless sink I was under. I’m glad I had my mouth closed. *(Martin Klapper, in Reminisce Extra magazine)***

**When my son was a freshman in high school and brought home his class pictures, I asked him to write something soft and mushy on the back of mine. So he wrote “Oatmeal”. *(Jeanette Edwards, in Reminisce Extra magazine)***

**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)***

**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)***

**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)***

**Why is September 28 special? It’s Ask A Stupid Question Day. Thanks for asking! (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 104)***

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

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

**Mom: “Zoe, you still haven’t picked up your dishes? Why do I always have to ask you twice to do things?” Zoe: “Could you repeat the question?” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**Husband: “Did you ask one of the kids to vacuum upstairs?” Wife: “No.” Husband: “That probably is not a good sound then is it?” Wife: “It’s never good when the kids vacuum without being asked!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**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)***

**Ask not what you can do for your country. Ask what’s for lunch. *(Orson Welles)***

**During the minister’s prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Little Johnny’s mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence. After church asked: “Johnny, whatever made you do such a thing?” Little Johnny answered soberly: “I asked God to teach me to whistle and He just then did!” *(Pulpit Helps)***

**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)***

**You never ask why you were fired, because if you do, they’re liable to tell you. *(Jerry Coleman, baseball announcer)***

**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)***

**My brother came home from college for a visit, and my mother treated him to dinner at an expensive restaurant. Brian had an insatiable appetite, prime rib, salad, dessert and coffee, Mom began to regret her offer. When the check arrived, she asked my brother if he would be willing to help with the tip. “Sure,” he replied. He calculated 15 percent of the tab and handed the bill back to her. *(Susan Dean, in Reader's Digest)***

**Said Shelley Winters, proudly: “I’ve never starred in an X-rated movie.” Said Shelley, humbly: “Nobody ever asked me to.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**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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