Ask and You Will Receive—Really?

In view of His going away, Jesus gave His disciples a new pattern of prayer. The prayer promises of Jesus are very large (John 14:13-14; 15:7, 16; 16:23-24, 26-27), but often believers wonder if Jesus really meant what He said. Jesus gave us these promises not as a sure-fire method for getting what we want, but as an encouragement to lead us into a deeper, more confident prayer life.

**You can pray more confidently if you know that—**

**1. Jesus is your Mediator**

A. He alone is the *acceptable* Mediator

B. He is the entirely *adequate* Mediator

**2. The Father Himself loves you**

A. Jesus doesn’t twist the *Father’s arm*

John 16:26-27

B. Jesus and the Father *act together*

John 14:12-13

**3. You are abiding in Christ** (John 15:7)

Then your prayers are—

A. In line with His *character & teaching*

B. Confident of His *goodness & wisdom*

**Application**

A. Determine that you will *learn to pray*

B. Trust that the Holy Spirit *will teach you*

John 14:16; 16:7

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. What are some good things to pray for according to the following verses?

Matthew 6:9

Matthew 6:10

Matthew 6:11

Matthew 6:12

Matthew 6:13

Acts 4:29-31, 33 (What was the purpose of the miracles they requested?)

Ephesians 1:15-21

Ephesians 3:14-21

Philippians 1:3-11

Philippians 1:19-20

Philippians 4:19

Colossians 1:9-12

Colossians 4:2-4

1 Timothy 2:1-2

3 John 2 (“Prosper” does not mean “get rich.” It is a more general term for the whole of life.)

3. How are we instructed to pray?

Mark 11:20-25 (From where—or Whom—does mountain moving faith come? Can you work it up in yourself? Should you try?)

Luke 11:1-13

Luke 18:1-14

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

4. How did these men of God pray?

Moses. Exodus 32:7-14; 33:12-12-13

Nehemiah. Nehemiah 1:1-2:5

Daniel. Daniel 9:1-19; 10:1-3

Jesus. Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12

We are not all called to imitate these examples in every respect, but they show us how seriously we should regard prayer.