

**THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

“And I tell you: Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened.”

Luke 11: 9

Ask. Yes. But ask in faith. Ask with conviction. Ask knowing that what you ask for is good and of God. Ask with an expectation that God will deliver on your request.

But what if God doesn't? What then? Am I some kind of fool because I took Jesus at his word and now here I am with no clear answer to my request and perhaps a nightmare unfolding because God hasn't come through for me? What about the people I prayed for to be set free from their cancer but who died anyway? What about broken marriages where one party doesn't want the breakup but the other does? What about when two people are “asking” about very different outcomes for the same reality? We do have to pray in truth. We have to seek what God desires and knows as the truth.

Often, our prayer needs a conviction behind it. Lord, I am asking you to change the hearts of those who have abandoned their faith in anyway or respond to their needs. The Lord immediately hears all of our prayers and if the request is in harmony with his Divine Will which always and everywhere wants only that which best for each person in each situation, nevertheless, God will not force himself on anyone, will not change a person's heart against their will. Sometimes the changing of a human heart takes a long time. We must not give up on our prayer.

I remember rereading on of my old Personal Journals and the pages were replete with my requests from the Lord for all kinds of things. But as I reread what I had written I did not even remember asking for the particular grace and sometimes did not even remember who the particular was even though I was praying for them, asking for something for them. The reality is: God answers us always. Sometimes He says Yes. Sometimes He says No. Sometimes he asks us to wait for him. But unless we ask, we cannot participate with the Lord. And if we do not ask we will not receive. If we don't know that, what else don't we know? That is the question of the week.