

Daily Devotional, October 35, 2021 Seek Ye First

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11-9-13 (NIV)

There have been times in my prayer life when I have consistently called out to the Lord for something that I have felt ought to occur. More often than not, these prayers have been prayers for healing, either for someone within the congregation or within my own family. During those times, I have trusted that God will work for what is best. A difference may exist, however, between trusting that God will work for what is best and for what I want to occur. This difference is one with which I continue to struggle.

I often believe that what I want is the best possible outcome, be it my desire to see someone healed of cancer or to have the Bears play four complete quarters of football. I tend to think that my desire is always the best outcome. The challenge for me is that, though I pray for my outcome to occur, things do not always turn out as I wish. Such endings seem to stand in opposition to the words Jesus spoke to his disciples when He said, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find... for everyone who asks receives.”

The difference between my desires and God’s working for the good of all people and all things, though, is revealed in the simple fact that while we know what we believe to be good and proper, God’s perspective encompasses a universal understanding of what is good. My prayers for healing seem to be the ones that will point towards God’s miraculous intervention in a way that will bring glory and honor to our Creator, while His perspective might differ. For God, perhaps, the only healing that needs to occur is that final healing we will all receive when we are drawn again to Him at death. This perspective shift challenges us. Even more, though, it points us toward a deeper understanding of the Lord’s infinite majesty over our own limited perspectives.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, We often ask for what we think we need, even as we seek to acknowledge that you are our king and our God. Forgive for the times that we tried. To press our own ideal. Open our eyes to see the work that you seek in all of our lives. Amen.