

(Luke 11:9-13, NIV84)

"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; he who seeks finds; and to him 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!"

Are you feeling confounded and confused by what you witness happening around you lately? So much that occurs in our lives goes beyond our understanding and defies logic. Indeed, if it were left up to us we would have to throw our hands up in despair and defeat and say with King Solomon, "Everything is meaningless!" (Ecclesiastes 12:8).

As meaningless as things may seem, our all-wise God has a plan. He is working it out in His own time and in His own way. May it be our prayer that God will give us calm hearts and peaceful minds that rest in His infinite wisdom, knowing beyond a doubt that He is in control and loves us unconditionally. Being comforted and guided by His holy Word, He will see us through these troubling times and we will be the stronger for it.

Confident to rely on God with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

September 3

Wiser Than Our Prayers

[God] is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.
Ephesians 3:20

God sometimes answers our prayers by withholding from us the very things for which we ask. That should not surprise us. He who is the all-wise God, he who is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think", will surely know best how to answer our petitions.

In his divine providence, he may find it necessary to overrule our ignorance, and to give us not what we ask for, but what we need. Of a certain man it was said:

He asked for strength that he might achieve; he was made weak that he might obey.

He asked for health that he might do great things; he was given infirmity that he might do better things...

He asked for all things that he might enjoy life; he was given life that he might enjoy all things.

How vividly the above quotation describes much of the prayer-life of both the apostle Paul and many a Christian!

Does it seem sometimes that our prayers have gone unanswered? If we prayed in faith, trusting in the merit of the Savior, we may be sure that God is answering them. Perhaps not in the way we desired, but he is answering them-in his own way and in his own time, and in a way which is designed for our eternal good.

Paraphrasing the words of Christ in Luke 11:9-13: "If we have asked him for a scorpion, shall we complain if he has given us a fish? If we have asked him for a stone, shall we complain if he has given us a loaf of bread?" Let us always remember: His answers are wiser than our prayers.

I leave all things to God's direction, He loveth me in weal and woe; His will is good, true His affection, With tender love His heart doth glow. My Fortress and my Rock is He: What pleaseth God, that pleaseth me.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)