

## YOUR ANSWER IS ON THE WAY

TEXT: 1 JOHN 5:14,15

1 John 5:14-15

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

15 And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him.

INTRODUCTION: DO YOU REALIZE THAT ALL YOU NEED TO DO TO GET AN ANSWER FROM GOD IS TO ASK AND BELIEVE? THIS MAY SEEM OVERSIMPLIFIED, BUT IT IS NOT. LISTEN TO THESE VERSES FROM THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE.

"AND THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE (THE ASSURANCE, THE PRIVILEGE OF BOLDNESS) WHICH WE HAVE IN HIM: (WE ARE SURE) THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING (MAKE ANY) REQUEST ACCORDING TO HIS WILL (IN AGREEMENT WITH HIS OWN PLAN), HE LISTENS TO AND HEARS US.

AND IF (SINCE) WE (POSITIVELY) KNOW THAT HE LISTENS TO US IN WHATEVER WE ASK, WE ALSO KNOW (WITH SETTLED AND ABSOLUTE KNOWLEDGE) THAT WE HAVE (GRANTED US AS OUR PRESENT POSSESSION) THE REQUESTS MADE OF HIM."

LET US OBSERVE THIS TEXT AND WHAT IT DECLARES AND LOOK AT AN INCIDENT IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST AND HOW HE RESPONDED TO A REQUEST. HE IS OUR EXAMPLE OF THE FATHER'S ACTIONS.

### I. MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

## A. WE ARE TO ASK--MAKE YOUR REQUEST KNOWN.

Matt 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matt 18:19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

John 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

John 16:23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

### 1. HE IS AWARE OF WHAT OUR BASIC NEEDS ARE (FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER).

Matt 6:8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matt 6:31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

### 2. HE LISTENS WHEN WE MAKE OUR REQUESTS.

Matt 21:22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

3. WE ARE TO ASK ACCORDING TO HIS  
PROVEN PLAN OF GRACE.

1 John 3:22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

4. WHEN WE PRAY ACCORDING TO HIS WILL,  
WE ARE PRAYING TO HIM FROM THE  
LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES. IF THEY GIVE  
CAUSE FOR HOPE, THEN THEY ARE THE  
BASIS OF HIS WILL

B. WE ARE TO BELIEVE--IT IS KNOWN TO US AS A  
PRESENT POSSESSION

1 John 5:15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Eph 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

II. GOD'S RESPONSE (JOHN 11)

A. THE REQUEST WAS MADE KNOWN TO JESUS

1. THEY MADE THEIR REQUEST KNOWN.  
"LAZARUS IS SICK."

John 11:3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

2. VERSE 5 GIVES US INSIGHT TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S ATTITUDE.  
--WE ARE LOVED--.

John 11:5 Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

#### B. JESUS TARRIED TWO DAYS

John 11:6 Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

7 Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

1. OFTEN GOD RESPONDS INSTANTLY.
2. SOMETIMES HE DELAYS.

#### C. THE PURPOSE OR REASON JESUS TARRIED OR DELAYED.

John 11:11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better."

13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,

15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

1. THEY KNEW HIM AS THE HEALER OF GALILEE AND KNEW HE COULD HEAL ALL MANNER OF DISEASES.
2. HIS DELAY WOULD ALLOW HIM TO REVEAL HIMSELF AS THE RESSURECTION. SOMETHING THEY WOULD ONE DAY

DESPERATELY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT  
JESUS.

3. HIS DELAY MADE IT A GREATER MIRACLE.

III. GOD'S REQUEST OF YOU.

A. BELIEVE IN ME.

1. MARTHA BELIEVES IN HIS TEACHINGS ON  
THE RESSURECTION.

John 11:20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

2. WHAT HE WANTED WAS FOR HER TO  
BELIEVE IN HIM

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;

26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

3. GOD WANTS YOU TO BELIEVE IN HIM AS  
THE MIRACLE WORKER. THE GOD WHO  
ANSWERS.

B. DON'T GIVE UP. HOLD OUT AND SEE THE  
GLORY.

John 11:40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

**CONCLUSION: WHEN YOU PRAYED AND MADE YOUR REQUEST KNOWN, GOD THEN BEGAN THE PROCESS OF BRINGING WHATEVER YOU ASKED TO COME TO PASS, AND YOU ARE TO LOOK AT IT AS A PRESENT POSSESSION.**

**REMEMBER: GOD CALLED THE LAND OF ISREAL ABRAHAM'S 400 YEARS BEFORE HIS CHILDREN POSSESSED IT.**

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to and hears us.

15 And if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted us as our present possessions] the requests made of Him. [AMP]