

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

December 8, 2007

## **He Didn't Ask**

Part 1

Printed for:

**HANDS FOR JESUS**

P.O. BOX 18655

MILWAUKEE, WI 53218-0655

For more information visit our Web sites at:

[www.handsforjesus.org](http://www.handsforjesus.org)

[www.handsforjesus.cc](http://www.handsforjesus.cc)

2007 by Merle E. Koepke

All Rights Reserved

## Ask and Receive

In Matthew 7:7, Jesus said, **“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”** It is important when we read verses like this in the Bible that we understand the whole message. Jesus did not say to ask your neighbor, or your friends, or anyone else.

Jesus was talking about asking God. In Matthew 7:11, Jesus said, **“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”**

Satan is called the god of this world in 2 Corinthians 4:4. We need to be sure that we are asking the right god, therefore, Jesus made it plain that He was talking about **“asking our Father which is in heaven.”** If we do what the Scriptures tell us, we will enjoy life here on earth, and then enjoy eternal life in heaven also.

The reason so many Christians do not enjoy life here on earth is because they go through life trying to make it on their own ability. They try to be good, honest, hardworking people. But, they never ask God to help them when they need help.

When many Christians fail to please God, they turn away from God to the world. Many of them get involved in lying, stealing, cheating, and all sorts of things, just trying to get by. Some turn to drugs, crime, and end up in prisons all over the world. There are multitudes of Christians in prisons all over the world. They turned away from God to try to make it on their own.

Why didn't they ask God when they needed help? They could have, and God would have helped them. God loves them, and wants to help them, but they do not ask God.

I learned a lot about asking God in my life, by my own experiences. I could say, “hundreds of times” I asked God to help me and He helped me. Many of the times God did things for me “supernaturally” when I asked Him. Other times, God would work out all the details using other people to help me. God loves us and wants to help us, “when we ask Him.”

One time my oldest son got himself into a situation, where he let another person talk him into going with him to buy a BB Gun. First of all, it was not legal to have a BB Gun in the city where we lived. Secondly, this other person wanted my son to pay for the BB Gun for him.

God knows everything, all the time. When things like this happen, we need to ask God for help. What happened was that my younger son came home from school alone that day. I asked him where his brother was? He told me, he had gone somewhere with another boy. He did not know where they went.

I waited an hour or so and my older son didn't come home. So I called this other boy's mother and she did not know where the two boys were. So, I started to pray in the Spirit, waiting to get an answer as to what to do? About 6:00pm that day, I asked God to help. I said, *“Holy Spirit, You know where my son is, please bring him home for me, Thank You”!*

About 6:30pm that day my son walked into the house. I asked him where he was? He told me this other boy talked him into withdrawing money out of his savings account and go to a hardware store in another city to buy a BB Gun.

When I asked him if he bought the BB Gun, he said, No. I asked him what happened? He said about 6:00pm he was going with this other boy through the parking lot of a hardware store to buy the BB Gun. When, all of a sudden he looked at his watch and noticed the time. He told the other

boy, *“I have to go home right now, my dad is waiting and he doesn’t know where I am.”* My son came home without buying the BB Gun.

God knows everything, and is waiting for us to ask Him for help when we have a need. Another time, my son was working in a fast food place. He worked the last shift, and would stay after midnight to clean up. He usually was home by 1:00am. One night I got up at about 1:30am and my son was not home. I prayed, *“Holy Spirit, You know where my son is, bring him home for me, Thank You”!* About 2:00am my son came walking into the house. I was still up, so I asked him why he was so late? He said, he and some others who worked there got to talking, and he did not realize how late it was. Then, all of a sudden about 1:30am he looked at the time, and told them he needed to get home. He knew I was waiting for him to come home. God is faithful to help if we will ask.

In this life, times can be trying, but if we talk to God and ask Him, He will help us. God puts thoughts in our minds to help us. We must recognize the thoughts that God puts in our minds. We must discern the difference between the thoughts of the devil and the thoughts that God puts in our minds. God’s thoughts are usually very positive, and they usually come when we are thinking about something else entirely. We must learn to recognize the thoughts that God puts in our minds.

One time I was planning on going to Oklahoma the last week of July. I thought, *“it gets hot in Oklahoma at that time of the year.”* So I decided to change the thermostat in my vehicle.

While I was changing the thermostat I heard a “crack” sound from the thermostat housing. I knew the housing was cracked, and I thought I should get a new one and put it on before I leave for Oklahoma.

When we understand spiritual things, we understand also how that Satan puts thoughts in our minds. Satan tries to keep us from having success in life. Satan doesn’t want us hearing from God, he wants to control things in our lives. Satan keeps putting thoughts in our minds day and night.

What happened was, I got so busy doing other things that I forgot to get a new thermostat housing and put it on before I left. About two-hundred and fifty miles from home, it was 6:00pm in the afternoon on a Friday, and the engine overheated. I stopped at a service station and told the owner what happened. It was too late to get a part at that time, so he had me stay overnight, so he could get a part about 8:00am in the morning.

We stayed there that night. But about 5:00am we were awake and got up. I thought, *“I’ve driven about two-hundred and fifty miles before it over heated. I could leave and drive about one-hundred miles to a larger city long before 8:00am. There I could get a part and put it on myself. By that I could save a lot of time on getting to Oklahoma.”*

As I was driving around the larger city I forgot to stop and get a part. Many miles past that city the engine overheated again. I stopped at a Wayside, and got some water. I cooled down the engine and thought I would stop at the next city and get a part. I drove past that city also, forgetting to stop for a part. When I was a long distance from any large city, the engine overheated again. I saw an auto repair shop not too far off the Highway, and drove over there to see if I could get some help.

The man at that auto repair shop was not very helpful. I got there about 10:30am. He kept telling me, he was trying to get a part, but hadn’t found one yet. This kept on until almost 5:00pm. Then he told me that there were no parts within 100 miles. I would have to stay until Monday when he could get a part from a dealer about one-hundred miles away.

I was praying in the spirit, and it came to me, *“put the old part back on, and get some water, and start driving.”* I asked for the parts back that he took off and put them on myself. I stopped at a

Restaurant a few blocks away and got about five gallons of water.

I started driving down the road, but about every three to five miles the engine would overheat. I had to cool it down, add some water, and go again. This happened three or more times. I only made it about fifteen miles and was running out of water.

I then started to pray to the LORD for help. I confessed to the LORD that it was my fault, I did not do what I knew to do a number of times. I asked the LORD to forgive me and help me.

I filled up the radiator once more and started driving. This time I drove about fifteen miles without overheating (three times further than any of the other times—that had to be the LORD helping me).

I drove into a filling station along the highway. As we drove in the attendant was coming out to meet us. It seemed a little unusual to me that He came out to meet us before we even got to the gas pumps. It seems, he knew we were coming. He said, *“What can I do for you?”* I told him *“I needed a new housing for the thermostat.”* It was just 6:00pm at the time, and he said, *“Let me see which one you need.”* He looked at the housing and said, *“I’m going to make a telephone call.”* Then he came back and said, *“They have one right here in town, they’re going to wait for me to come and get it. I’ll be right back,”* and he left. By 7:00pm he had the new thermostat housing on and we were on our way.

If I would not have prayed and asked the LORD for help I don’t know what would have happened? It is important to understand the Gospel. It is the power of God unto salvation. Salvation means, “deliverance and protection.” If we need help, we should ask the LORD and He will help us.

I had a good friend in the LORD years ago. He has now gone to be with Jesus. He told me what happened years ago in his life. He was in the Auto-body repair business. He had been in business for a few years. Then he went out of business because he could not get enough work to pay his bills. He put all of his tools and equipment in storage.

One day he attended a meeting of some Christian business men. Someone told him, *“If you would ask the LORD to bring in work, He will do it for you.”* This brother in the LORD got excited and the next day (which was a Saturday), he went looking for a building to rent and start up in business again.

He found a building for rent that was on a side street, just off a main street. He talked to the owner and told the owner that he wanted to rent the building to use for an Auto-body repair shop. He did not have any money, but told the owner that the LORD was going to bring in the work. He promised the owner that if he would let him use the building for one month, he would pay him two months rent before the end of the first month. The owner said to him, your idea seems a little crazy, but I will let you move your equipment in based upon your promise.

That day, he moved his equipment into that building. On Monday morning he prayed, *“LORD I am here and ready for business. Bring me in some work. Thank You Jesus.”* Shortly after he prayed a car pulled up in the front of the building. The driver asked, *“Is there an Auto-body shop somewhere around here?”* My friend said, *“Yes, right here!”* Then the driver said, *“I need some work done on my car. I was driving in the area and the LORD said to me, go over to this place and have your car repaired today.”* That was the first job he did in that place.

From that day on for three months, every time he needed work he would pray and the LORD would send him more work. For three months he always had work. During those three months he did not have a telephone in the building. He did not have any sign out in the front letting people

know he was in the Auto-body repair business. Many people would stop and tell him, the LORD said they should come to him and he would do the repair work on their vehicles for them. The LORD was bringing in the work, simply, because he asked the LORD.

During those three months he took in a lot of money. He paid his tithes to his church. They said he was the largest tither in the church. After three months he got a telephone and put up a sign to let people know he was in the Auto-body repair business at that location.

But that did not stop him from praying and asking the LORD to bring in more business. He continued to ask the LORD whenever he needed more work. He continued to pay his tithes and thank and praise the LORD for everything. For years, he was the largest tither in the church where he attended.

When I first met this brother in the LORD, he had his own buildings (a house and a repair shop). Both buildings were paid for, and he and his wife started a Church in their house. They gave to the poor, food, clothing, and other things they needed. They never asked people for money. They always had the money they needed to pay all their bills.

This brother in the LORD and his wife continued to ask the LORD to bring in work. The work kept coming in. Many times they had more work than they could do. They sent a lot of jobs over to another brother in the LORD, who was also in the Auto-body repair business. His shop was about two or so miles away.

The LORD is faithful to take care of those who are His own, and ask Him when they need something. God wants to supply all our needs. But, He also wants us to obey Him and ask when we have a need.

The LORD took good care of this brother in the LORD. After many years of serving the LORD, he went to be with Jesus on his birthday at seventy-two years old.

What would have happened in this brothers life if he had not asked the LORD? I don't believe he would have had the success he had if he had not asked the LORD when he needed work.

When we learn to ask the LORD for what we have need of, that is when the LORD answers. Jesus Himself said, **“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you”** (Matt 7:7).

I am sure there are many Christians today who have gone without their needs being met, simply because they never asked the LORD for what they had need of. Many Christians have been taught other ways to try to get their needs met. Yet, if they would believe what Jesus said, and do what Jesus said, it will work for them also, just as it did for my good friend in the LORD.

The wife of this friend in the LORD is still living today. She put the LORD first in her life years ago. While her husband was living, she spent hours a day in prayer and studying the Bible. She did this every morning. Then she would help her husband and pray with him and for him when he needed work or anything else to complete what he was doing.

She also prayed for others when they needed prayer. Praying, is asking God. Many times they would be called to go to a Hospital and pray for someone in the hospital. Many times, within hours or a day or so the person they prayed for was released from the Hospital and sent home healed.

Many times the doctors would say their patient was in a serious condition, and needed special treatment. Within hours after this friends wife prayed the doctors would say, *“I don't know what happened, but their condition is no longer there.”*

We could write a whole book on all the times when the wife of this brother in the LORD

prayed for people and they received their healing from the LORD. Praying to the LORD is the same as asking the LORD. When we pray we ask the LORD to do things according to our prayer.

What would happen if we did not pray or ask the LORD? Most likely nothing, just like with many Christians today. They live like the rest of the world lives, and do things the same way the world does them.

This does not need to be that way with you. You can ask the LORD and He will answer. Whatsoever you ask according to His will, He will do it.

God is Love, and loves to answer prayer. Every time you pray according to His Word He will answer. But, you must ask, then God will answer.

## He didn't Ask

When Jesus was crucified on the Cross of Calvary, there were two thieves crucified along with Jesus. One on His left side, and the other on His right side. In Luke 23:42 it tells us that one of them **“said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”** When this person said that to Jesus it says, **“Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”** Surely, paradise must be a great place to be.

The one that asked Jesus to remember him was a thief, who was crucified because of his crimes. The world doesn't like thieves. But Jesus said to him **“Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”** Why would Jesus tell that thief that he would be with Him in paradise?

There are two reasons why Jesus would say that to him. One reason is because when Jesus died on the Cross that day, He paid the price for the sins of the whole world. That included the sins committed by that thief on the cross also.

But did you know that you will not benefit from what Jesus did for you on the Cross of Calvary if you do not ask and receive?

God is love (1 John 4:8). That is the way God is. God loves people. God doesn't love sin. But God loves people, even those who did sin at one time.

But what about the other thief on the cross? The one on the other side of Jesus. Why didn't Jesus say to him also, **“To day shalt thou be with me in paradise?”** It's simple, he did not ask. Had that thief also asked Jesus to remember him, he would have been received by Jesus and spent eternity with Jesus in paradise also.

Why is it that way? The world we live in was created by God. God loves people so much that He created man in His own likeness and image (Gen. 1:26,27; 2:7). Then, after sin and death entered into mankind, God sent Jesus into the world to save us from sin and death.

But even more important than that, God wants to show us His love by being God to us. God wants to be our God. Not just so that we can go to heaven. But also so that He can help us in our everyday lives here on earth.

Both of those thieves were dying on the cross along side of Jesus. One asked Jesus to remember him. Jesus did not just say, “I'll remember you!” Jesus went far beyond that when He said, **“Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”**

Anyone can remember a person after they die. Many people put markers on the graves of those who died, just to remember them years later. But, Jesus wasn't just going to remember him over the years. Jesus was going to be with him in paradise. That is LOVE, the kind of love that God has for those who ask.

How many people today are spending eternity in hell, simply because they did not ask Jesus to be their LORD and Savior? They did not ask God to be their God. They did not ask Jesus to receive them unto eternal life.

If you have not personally asked Jesus to be your LORD and Savior, you should not wait any longer. It is the most important thing you can do in your life. Just ask the LORD, from your heart, to come into your life and be your LORD and Savior. Say a prayer similar to the following:

*“LORD Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I believe You died for me, and arose again from the dead to be my LORD and Savior. Jesus, come into my life and be my LORD and Savior. I*

*will serve You all the days of my life. Thank You Jesus for becoming my LORD and Savior, Amen.”*

From what we see written in the Bible, there are more people in hell than there are in heaven. Almost everyone of them that are in hell, are there because they did not ask Jesus to save them or help them when they needed help. If they would have asked, Jesus would have saved them and helped them in every area of their lives.

It's not just so we can go to heaven when we die. It includes everything in our lives here on earth before we die. The whole world could be walking in love and enjoying life here on earth, if they would ask Jesus to remember them and help them when they need help.

Most of the people today do not think they need help from God. They think they can do it on their own, without God. In John 3:27, John the Baptist made a statement that would be helpful if everyone understood it. John said, **“A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.”** Jesus made a similar statement to Pilate in John 19:11. Jesus said, **“Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above...”** In John 15:5, Jesus said, **“...without me ye can do nothing.”** God created all things. God loves us. Without God making it possible for us, we can not do anything. But, **“with God nothing shall be impossible”** (Luke 1:37).

What most people today, including Christians, don't understand is that, they need to “Ask!” Jesus will answer every prayer if they will only pray and ask Him. God will answer every prayer if they will ask Him.

God is for us, not against us (Rom. 8:31). God always loved us. God wants to help us and save us from the works of the devil. All we need to do is ask Him. Ask and believe, that our joy may be full. In John 16:24, Jesus said, **“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”**

If you have questions that you need answers to, we are here to help you get answers. We love helping people get to know God better, and walk with Him every day.

Wherever you are, all over the world, you can get help from us to get to know God and how to receive from God. Just go to the Internet and find our Web sites at: [www.handsforjesus.org](http://www.handsforjesus.org) and also [www.handsforjesus.cc](http://www.handsforjesus.cc)

There is a lot of information on these Web sites that can help you and it is all FREE. There are so many books available by downloading that you can start today, and continue reading books for weeks and months. You can download as many books as you wish. Every book will help you to know God better and it will help you in your everyday life. The better you know God the better your life will be.

God loves you! Because we love God, we also love you. We will continue to add new books to the many books already on the Internet to help you.

Keep checking our Web sites for new books to help you in your walk with God. They are all FREE!