

# HAVE YOU BEEN ASKING OR MASKING?

*Ask and it will be given to you;*

*Seek and you will find;*

*Knock and the door will be opened to you.*

*Matthew 7:7 (NIV)*

Have you noticed that starting letters of the action words “Ask, Seek and Knock” form the word “**A.S.K.**” as well? Knowing that nothing happens by coincidence with our God, let us consider the "double" emphasis of the 3-action word "A.S.K." here.

- What does ASKing mean?
- Why ASK?
- What does God promise us when we ASK?

Read the verse again and pause for a minute to consider your thoughts.

- Have I been actively ASKing?
- If Yes, what was the result?
- If Not, what am I trying to prove by not ASKing?

Amidst the COVID19 situation, we are encouraged to wear masks if we are not well. For some, it is better to always wear a mask especially when moving in crowded places. We wear a mask to protect ourselves from harm or to prevent causing harm to others.

Fortunately, in our interaction with God, there is no need to wear a mask, whatever the reasons. We can bare all before HIM. In the “equation” below, perhaps the “M” represents the invisible masks we are wearing that prevent us from boldly connecting with GOD to ASK for blessings.

M.A.S.K. – M. = A.S.K.

## WHAT MASKS ARE WE WEARING IN GOD'S PRESENCE?

We are all wired differently and have our own issues to deal with. Perhaps the "M" represents different types of masks in our lives that have to do with the following aspects:

- Me – I am not willing to give up some things in exchange for God's blessings.
- Man – I am not willing to forgive and forget some things that people have done to me.
- Money – I am not prepared to surrender my resources to God's control.
- Methodology – I want to do things my way.



Whatever the M represents, let us drop it. It seems big at the moment and is depriving us of our right and privilege of ASKing. But once we drop it, we are set free and can stand tall before God to start ASKing for blessings in our lives and that of others.

## LET US ALWAYS RUN TO GOD FIRST

God's Word is not complicated. His thought is simple. We are His children and He desires the best for us.

- When we LOST connection with Him because of sin, He spoke through human

prophets.

- When we CONTINUED to wallow in sin and reject Him, He sent Jesus in human form to demonstrate His love and power.
- And when we crucified Jesus, He gave us His Word and Holy Spirit to continue to set us free to reconcile ourselves to Him and have eternal life.

## **ONLY GOD FITS THE PROFILE OF OUR DREAM HELPER**

In our everyday life, we ask for things like information, details, plans, help etc so that we have clarity about something and can get something done successfully in good time. In our minds, we hope that the person we go to will possess the following attributes and abilities:

- He is KNOWLEDGEABLE enough to give us a good answer.
- He considers it WORTH his time and energy to help me.
- He is WILLING to entertain my request.
- He is POWERFUL enough to influence people and things to solve my problem.
- He offers me help UNCONDITIONALLY.

There is only one person who satisfies your dream "HELPER" profile. He is GOD!

So why do we run helter-skelter, all over the place, when God is making **AN OFFER WITH A PROMISE** to us? He is waiting for us.

## **LET US MAKE A SIMPLE RESPONSE TO A SIMPLE PROMISE**

Let us enjoy ASKing:

1. To A.S.K. is to acknowledge His Lordship over us, His Omnipotence, Omniscience and Omnipresence. We ask by simply going to Him in prayer and opening our mouth to verbalise our request. **IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, EVERY TIME.**

2. We A.S.K. because He delights in our well-being as His children, living the abundant life as joint-heirs with Christ. He has given us His Son's precious life to redeem us. What else will he withhold from us? **WE ARE HIS BELOVED CHILDREN.**
3. If we A.S.K. according to His will, he hears us. And if He hears us, the answer is well on the way. We just need to persist and wait for His good timing to make all things beautiful. **HE HAS PROMISED IT.**

Bryan Tay

*God's treasure cove of blessings and answers to our prayers may still be full of backlogs because we are not ASKing and claiming them fast enough for our lives and to bless others.*