

# “Ask, and It Shall Be Given You”

By Chris Ulrich

Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

You may be seated. It's good to see everybody this morning, and, it's a beautiful September day. A couple of days before the start of fall. Summer's just about over. If you want to get something done this summer, you've got two days left.

So, as we had talked about, our theme verse, John 15:7, and the theme for the month is, “Learning to, and the Process of, Asking God.” It's a little bit lengthy, but, it's something that—I know Parrish and Andy have talked about that's something that God dealt with them quite a bit about over the last couple of months, as Andy shared, at 1:47 in the morning. That's definitely something that makes a difference; that's definitely something that impacted him; it impacts us. And I know there's one thing—well, many, I suppose—but, there's a big difference between God and us, and—you don't have to shout them out—God never sleeps. No doubt about it, God never sleeps; He's always there. He's always there to hear our prayers; He's always there to deal with us in whatever capacity. And He meets us where we're at. It's not something where we serve a foreign God, or somebody that doesn't speak our language. I know something that Parrish preached on last week; he preached from the Book of John, chapter four, about the Samaritan woman that Jesus had met, and, not going to re-teach on the background on the Samaritans and the Israelites, but, there was something that Jesus perceived her thoughts, He discerned her past, but He also bridged the gap. And, Parrish, the part that really stuck out to me was that God does speak all languages. He communicates in every way imaginable, and He does reach us where we're at.

Our general pastor, Pastor Paine, he was here a couple of weeks ago, and He asked a very poignant question, and that was the title of the sermon, “What do we do with sin?” I would say that it was more than a powerful message; it was a life-changing for the better. I'm not going to elaborate on that today, because it would take quite a while, but I'm going to say, what I would suggest is that you go to our website, [mychristianfellowship.org](http://mychristianfellowship.org), go to the part where it says, “International,” “Great Lakes,” and then go to the Sermon Notes. I believe it would be worth your time. In addition to that, we have a study on Wednesday nights at the ‘It's All Good’ coffee shop in Zion, which Bob teaches, in four days, usually, but this week, we're going to do a revisit the blessing of the sermon that Pastor Paine did give, so... I believe that would be worth your time, so, if you'd like to make it out there.

But, at this time, Bob, I'd like you to come and ask God's blessing on the message. Ask that I would get out of the way and that God's Word would be taught, and that we'd all receive something.

**Bob:** Bow our heads, please. God, I want to thank You for giving us this great day, so far, God. A great day of worship, Your Spirit in the house right now, God. Now's the time for the Word, Jesus; Your Word through our servant, here, Jesus. He already asked, God, that he would step out of the way and let Your voice speak through him, Jesus. Let that happen, Lord, and let us receive what we need to hear, today, God: Correction, rebuke, encouragement, forgiveness, whatever the case might be, God, that we could receive and walk out a different person, today, God. Once again, bless Your servant, here, in front of us, God, Red, we call him, or Chris Ulrich, I know You know him by name, Jesus. God, I ask all this in Your name, I pray. Amen.

Thank you, Bob. So, a lot of times I give the title of the message toward the end of the message. Today, I'm going to do the opposite; I'm going to tell you what the sermon title is, right off the bat, for those of you who are taking notes. The title is, “Ask and it Shall Be Given You.” It comes from Matthew chapter seven. There's three points I want to make today, that pertain to this topic.

- What are we asking for?
- How soon are we expecting it?
- Not forgetting what we've asked for and God has done.

There's going to be an interactive part, later on, that I want you to start thinking about some things that God has dealt with you about, things that you've asked for.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Point—What Are We Asking For?

**Matthew 7:7-11** *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 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?*

I realize, I think we all realize, that we're all individuals with varying wants, needs, and desires. And because we're at varying points in our lives, we experience things that change, as far as our wants, needs, and desires. And, they are different from each other, and in many ways our wants, desires, and needs have changed from what they were five years ago, ten years ago, twenty years ago. I know that, about ten years ago, I purchased a building, so, now you're dealing with property tax, you're dealing with mortgage payments, you're dealing with all these kinds of things, and many of you are very familiar with that kind of responsibility, but, I'm saying, that, you go back fifteen years ago, I could care less what the property taxes were. I could care less about, like the escrow, and all these different things, so, that, I think, would be a good example of how our wants and needs do change over the course of time. But there is a common thread that we all share, and that's the need of salvation. If we're not seeking God to be saved first and foremost, then we've got our priorities turned around. We could be asking, "Oh, God, I want this gift from You, but, the salvation part, I don't want that kind of responsibility or accountability. Oh, God, I want to receive this..." We had a song many years ago, it was called, "Gimme this, Lord." It was a simple song; it just said, "Gimme, gimme this, Lord; gimme that," and it says, "I really want this, with nothing required of me." Well, there's going to be some expectations from us. God's not having a relationship with us so that we can just go and do our merry way, and just live however, and think we're okay with God; we've got a walk with God. "I live however I want all through the week, and do whatever I want, and don't really take the Word of God seriously, and don't pray, don't seek fellowship, don't read the Bible, but I'm blessed of God." I don't think so. Honest to God, that is a fact. That's not a rebuke; that's just looking at it from a logical standpoint. Because I know that a lot of people, "I just want to look at it logically." Okay, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God..." (Hebrews 11:6) And, I think you have make accommodation of a balance of both. You have to have logic, and responsibility, and you also have to have faith, and you also have to have hope. There's a lot of things that we have to have as far as having a walk with God.

But, okay, I'm going to take the next step and say, let's just assume that we've checked that box off, we've baptized in Jesus' name and we've followed the Lord in being born again, so, now what? I'm glad you asked, because now we're at the point that God can lead us every day, and bless us beyond our wildest imagination or expectation. Now, I'm not talking about a prosperity gospel, here. I think most of us have heard that, but, it just means that if you give your life to Jesus then all your financial responsibilities will be taken care of and you won't have any problems at all. No, it's not like that. I wish that were the case, but that's just not even reality. We live in the real world, as Andy talked about before, and we're still flesh and blood; we're going to talk about that more, later. And I don't think any of us here

stand to receive a massive inheritance. I know I'm not, and, if you are, you don't have to raise your hand, but that's something where then you're set, but, here's the truth, even if that were the case, you'd still have to seek God. I mean, it doesn't matter how much wealth we have; what would a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8:37)

So back to the question, what are we asking for? Is it a combination of the physical and the spiritual needs, because it should be? Are we praying for good health for our family, friends, and enemies? Are we praying for our jobs or even the company we work for? Are we asking God for peace, and not just world peace, but for our immediate surroundings peace? Because, as far as what we've got right here, we're not affected by the world's influences, as far as, if we shake it off, if we get over it, if we pray it through, then we're not going to be overwhelmed and inundated by the influences of the world. I'm not saying it doesn't have an influence, but, I am saying that we're not going to be overwhelmed by it. We're going to be able to get over it; we're going to be able to present ourselves a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God (Romans 12:1). Are we praying that our joy is abundant? And, I'm not talking about dealing with loss, tragedy; I mean, we're—we just lost a sister this past week, Stephanie Johnson. I don't know if any of her family are here this morning, but... Weep with those that weep; that's what the Bible says (Romans 12:15). I mean, we can't just "Oh, everything's going to be fine." The Bible does say, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." (Psalms 116:15) But, you know what? Still weep with those that weep. That's an important part of this life. So, getting back, what are we asking for? Are we asking God for forgiveness, or the need to be forgiving when we need? Sometimes we're not sure what to ask, or even how to ask, and there's nothing wrong with that. But those are just a few things that come to mind and it's really just the tip of the iceberg, because there's not just one box, these are the only things you can ask God for. And we're going to talk about that a little bit, later on. Because, it could be the most dynamic, the most miraculous, the most incredible expectation down to, "God, I just want to have a good attitude getting out of bed." I was talking with Andy this morning, and I believe the Lord does speak to us, and I know the world, "Oh, God speaks to you? What are you, some nut?" Well, guess what? Yes, he does. That's a fact. I don't back off of that. I'm not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. But I believe, and I know, that when I woke up this morning, God just said, "You've got to present it with enthusiasm and a good attitude." And, it's like, well, you could just blurt out anything, "Oh, yes, well, I'm in here," you know, and if it doesn't have any enthusiasm or good attitude, what difference is it going to make? What good is it going to be? "Oh, well, I checked the box; I did my job. I got up there." That's not what it's all about. I mean, there's a lot more to it, but...

**Romans 8:26-28** *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.*

We know that all things work together for good to them who are the called according to His purpose, but the world doesn't really know that; the world doesn't really buy that. The world doesn't really expect that, because, anytime something goes wrong, there's not really any fallback, you know, maybe they've got some different ideas or plans, but, you know, I think we live in a world where, it's like they try to sanitize every single solitary aspect of our lives. I mean, whether it's the workplace—and I get that we don't want to be hateful, we don't want to be discriminating, I mean, it's things like this, but it's like, it gets to the point where there's a safety net, "Well, okay, if you're on this scaffolding, you've got to put on this harness, and you've got to clip this on... I get it. We've got these special kinds of brakes, that, if you don't hit the brakes quick enough, the car senses that there's an object in front of you and hits the brakes for you. It's like, okay, I get that safety is important, but what about our soul? What about the

safety for our soul? If we live so recklessly, and just like, “Oh, well, I can live however I want,” and think that... What about judgment? What about the safety of judgment? That is a real matter. It’s not something that I’m just up here making it up, or any of that teach or preach are just making it up ourselves, but, ultimately, we have to convince ourselves that this is true. This isn’t a matter of like, okay, the battle is fought between our two ears. Many times we have to look at it like, “Okay, I’m sure that this is right. I’m sure that this is true, no matter how much the nay-sayers, or the opposition, or people that are trying to have an ungodly influence are thinking, “That can’t be true! There’s no way that all these people aren’t living right,” or, “There’s no way God’s going to put them all in Hell.” Well, people choose that. You look at, it talks about people that were cut off because of their unbelief (Romans 11:20). But, if we believe, and we do that which Christ has commanded, then we’re going to be okay. There are no limits to what we can ask God, and that was something that I wanted to point out from before, and it doesn’t have to be some righteous request. Do you get what I mean? “Oh, I’m just praying for the ill,” and there’s nothing wrong with that. Or, “I’m just going to present myself as just this righteous, oh, I pray to have the power to fast five days,” or, “I pray to be able to teach such a great message.” No; there’s nothing wrong with that, but, how many here have ever prayed for the weather? I know I have. (Some hands went up) Yes, I appreciate that. Well, I’m going to share a brief account about a recent experience about asking for good weather. Now, many of you knew Tony Mattia, he was a brother that was around the church for many years, and many of us were close friends with Tony. He got ill, several years back; he passed away about a year ago. I had stayed in contact with his family, and, his request was that his ashes be scattered on a mountain up in Maine, Mt. Katahdin. Some of you may know where that is. Some of you may not know where that is, but that is actually a place up in Maine. So, I talked to his family, and I said, to his mom and his sister, “If it’s your desire that this be done, I’m willing to do it, but I don’t want to override what the family’s requests are.” And they just told me, “Well, that was what he wanted.” It was a mountain that Tony and I had climbed, back in 2002, and I’m making a point here about the weather. So, as we got closer, a cousin of mine from Delaware, we climbed the mountain last year, and kind of prepped ourselves for this. She came up, and we went up to Maine, her, myself, and my mom. Now, this is way, way, I mean, this is almost up in Canada. It’s very close to New Brunswick, so it’s at the very end of the Appalachian Trail. I don’t ever plan on hiking the entire Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, but, for those of you that do, it’s the very end of the trail. So, anyway, I’m checking the weather, and we’re getting everything prepared, and my cousin and my mom and I drove up there. We get up there, visited, stayed with some family, and I’m looking at the weather report for the next day. And, you know, you’re in a very remote area, so it’s like, the signal’s not that great, and it’s like, okay, I see the last weather report, “Brief showers.” So, I’m like, “Oh, okay. That’s no big deal.” I mean, I could deal with brief showers. So, we get up that morning, and it’s kind of cloudy and overcast, and drive up there and start climbing. It rains a little; I was one of the few people that actually had an umbrella. Picture that. Now, here’s another thing, my cousin, she’s—a lot of people probably thinking, “Oh, that’s his girlfriend, or his wife,” which it isn’t, but... they’re probably seeing, as we’re walking through a little bit of rain, I’m holding the umbrella, and they’re thinking, “What a jerk! He won’t give his wife his umbrella?” I said, “Do you want the umbrella, Molly? I could give it to you.” And she’s like, “No, no, I’m okay.” So, anyway, we get up there; it took us six hours to get to the top, so it’s a grueling climb. We’re really not mountain climbers, but, we did make it. Well, on the way down, about half-way down, it starts raining, and, I mean, a torrential downpour. The kind of wetness that, if you jumped in a pool, you couldn’t get any wetter, and I’m like, (muttering under his breath), “This is ridiculous; what am I doing this for?” And now I’m like—she had gotten a little bit scared; we were coming down the rock-face part, so... But, as we got closer to the end, it just seemed like it dragged on and on and on and on. And I’m making a point here about what are we asking. Now I’m thinking that I’m going to twist my ankle, because it’s wet, and it’s like you’re climbing between these rocks, and, “I can’t believe I’m doing this, but...” When we got there, we got done, my request for it to not rain was denied by God. That’s the cut-and-dried of it, that’s the bottom line: God said, “Nope. You’re

going to deal with this.” Bob, like you said, “Deal with it,” we dealt with it. There’s not really a lot—I mean, by that point the umbrella was—it was raining sideways. We were like—but, we did make it.

So, what are we asking for? I want to reiterate that question; that’s one of our main points today.

**James 4:1-3** *From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

We can ask God for the wrong things, but God still has our back if we allow Him to alter our thinking. So, I guess my point here would be, How many have ever asked for something, but were glad they didn’t get it later on? I have. I asked for something, and, you know what? time went by, and I didn’t get that, and I thought, “Thank God I didn’t get that.” This isn’t one of my main points but we can ask for the wrong things and be reluctant to allow God to change our minds and that passage does reinforce that.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Point – How Soon Are We Expecting What We Asked For?

I’m going to read a verse, you don’t have to turn to it; it’s a very short verse.

**Luke 21:19** *In your patience possess ye your souls.*

So, this verse isn’t meant to imply that God is slow and that He’ll eventually take care of what we’ve asked a million years from now. And there are certainly crises that arise that dictate a much more urgent perspective, and God knows that, too. It’s not like God isn’t order, or God doesn’t understand that there are times when there is an urgency. But as the old expression goes, “Rome wasn’t built in a day” there are things that are going to take time. I think there’s many parallels that we could draw from our natural birth and life, to our spiritual birth and maturity that we need to understand. We can’t make ourselves grow any faster. I remember this, as a kid, some nights where, I mean, my legs would just be sore, and this wasn’t, like, from being out playing or any particular activity or anything, but, it was like, “Oh, mom, my legs are killing me.” And she was like, “You’re growing.” And you know what? I’m not—she’s a nurse—and I’m not a medical expert, and I’m not just going to sit there and say, “Oh, well, she’s just trying to cheer me up.” But, the truth is—did anybody ever feel that, as a kid, real sore? Oh, good, because, you know, that’s something that—growing pains. I guess you just call them growing pains; I mean, that’s a normal thing. It’s not something that’s that foreign to us. But, getting back to How Soon Are We Expecting What We Ask for? We live in a “microwave” society and a culture of wanting everything right now, and sometimes people get discouraged because it doesn’t happen instantly, or this minute. “What happened? How come I didn’t get it? I asked for that job...” “I asked her to marry me, and she said, ‘Yeah, yeah, yeah! I want to marry you!’” or whatever the case might be. I mean, there has to be like, give people time to absorb what was asked, or what we ask God for.

This shows the patience of God, and we’re supposed to be Christ-like.

**James 5:7-8** *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*

**2 Peter 3:9-14** *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But*

*the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

God is longsuffering for our sakes, not His, but longsuffering is a trait that we need to practice ourselves. I'm not talking about being a pushover, or, you know, just letting other people take advantage of us, but not blowing up at the drop of a hat, either. The Bible talks about in Ephesians 4:26, "Be angry, and sin not." Just getting angry isn't sinning but that shouldn't be our reputation. I want to tell just a quick short story from about 15 to 20 years ago, that I started getting that reputation. I know you probably can't believe it, but... Anyway, I won't say the names of the people, because they're good, good friends, but I would be sitting there with my "smile" on my face, and they would come up and say, "Are you mad?" And I'd be like, "No." Twenty minutes later, "Are you mad?" "No." "Are you mad?" "A little." Twenty minutes later, "Are you mad?" "Yeah, I'm kind of getting a little mad now!" It's kind of fun to laugh about it now but, at the time, it was like, "I really need to work on my demeanor." I'm just telling you the truth; there are things that we need to adjust along the way, and it might not be something like, "Oh, yeah, as soon as we get baptized, we've got it all down pat." That's just not the case. There's things that God deals with you—like Parrish and Andy would share, about we need to ask. That's what the theme of this month is about, is asking God. Ask what you will.

So how soon are we expecting to get what we've asked God for? And if it hasn't happened yet, have we stopped asking? I'm not saying that everything is going to crawl and God is going to put us on the back-burner, but there are matters that might take many years to develop, but in the end we need to know that God is always right on-time. If it's something that we need, God will make sure that it's taken care of, and that's a fact.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Point – Not Forgetting What We've Asked for and What God Has Done**

**James 1:22-25** *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

So, we have to remember where we came from. Remember the pit from whence we were dug, and the rock from whence we were hewn (Isaiah 51:1). It would be impossible, though, to remember every single act, miracle, dream, intercession of God, or the innumerable blessings that God has given us. But there was a kids' magazine, years ago, and, actually, it's still published, called "Highlights." I don't if you remember that, those of you who have taught in school... I don't remember much about it, but I used to just flick through it in kindergarten and first grade. But, that's along the lines of what I want to do today, is get some highlights.

I'm going to get the ball rolling with a relatively recent personal event; it's not a harrowing tale of life or death. It wouldn't be considered miraculous, and by all practical purposes, people might say, "That's a little run-of-the-mill. Really, that's kind of average. It's really not a big answer from God." But

I guarantee, if there was medical complications in this procedure, I would have been, “Oh, God, why is this happening, what am I going to do? I don’t know if I can handle this!” So, I precede that to say, I was at the dentist about 6 months ago, and there was a tooth, below a crown, that some earlier x-rays had determined to be decayed; relatively severely decayed. So, I asked the dentist if he could take it off, and drill a little bit into it, and see if they could build up—I’m not a dentist, but I’m kind of giving you some terminology—and then put a crown on it, and he said, “Okay.” So, he takes care of that, and, of course, I’m hoping it’s just a little bit decayed, and he can just put a new crown on. He gets in there, and he says, “Well, I’m going to suggest a couple of options here; One is, we can hope that it isn’t so decayed that it won’t abscess, and that putting on a new crown, down the road a ways, it might have complications, then. Or we could actually extract it, put an implant in, and then give you a new crown. So, I was like, “Okay, well, how much is that going to cost?” I’ve got to say, where’s Phil? So, he says, “Just a crown is about \$1200 and an implant is about \$3800.” So, my reaction was like Phil, “Okay.” Just a simple, “Okay.” And I’m thinking to myself, “You’ve got to be kidding me.” I’m like, “All right, I have to think about this before I actually give you the green light.” But the implant is a much more long-term and certain solution. So, after a little while, I opt for the implant. He recommends a local oral surgeon who specializes in implantology. Now I’ve got to look at my budget, get the day off from work, make the appointment, ask for someone to drop me off, and then wait for the procedure. Remember that we’re talking about the process of asking and learning. So, Jose G., actually that day, he was gracious enough to push his schedule out a couple of hours and drop me off... Actually, he stayed with me—the person has to say with you while you undergo this procedure, so I appreciate that. First couple days it’s OK and then the pain, I mean, severe, hits. I mean, like a ton of bricks. I was like, “Oh, my God! Ouch!” And, so much for me making the white water rafting trip that Kirk Orelup had coordinated. I was like, “Forget it, Kirk, I can’t make it. I can’t be camping up in the woods, and my mouth is throbbing in pain. Fortunately, the pain subsided after a couple of days. Now, I also remember, a couple days later, Laygoze and Lorraine, they brought me over a very tasty rib dinner. That was the first real meal I’d had; you have to have smoothies. “What can I have, now, to eat?” I asked him, the oral surgeon. “Well, you know, smoothies.” Great, great. So that (the rib dinner) was very timely. I appreciate that a lot. Definitely a little heartier than a smoothie. So, I resume my normal life schedule, a few months go by, I have to get, you know, the oral surgeon gives me the green light, because he has to check to see that that implant grafts into the bone. I guess this ties into the previous point because it’s a lengthy process. I mean, we’re talking about over the course of months. This wasn’t like, “Do it right now! Can’t you get it in?”—No, there’s these things, you’ve got to wait, you know, a period of time, and, also, it’s going to cost you an arm and a leg. Okay, great, Lord, that’s just what I wanted, to have to wait a long time and have it cost me an arm and a leg. But, you know what? I got it in this past week, and I give credit to God. I thank God for that, making it all work.

So what does any of that have to do with God? I told you it wasn’t going to be a story of life or death or some great miracle. I just know that we still live here on planet earth, we are all still flesh and blood, and we all have something to thank God, that God has gotten us through.

I’m going to read one more verse, here, and then I’m going to open it up a little bit, and, hopefully, you’ve been thinking a little bit about what God has given you, that God has changed in your life, or given you an answer for. A lot of us have herd this, especially as it pertains to communion:

**Luke 22:19-20** *And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you.*

We do this in remembrance. Now, I’m going to ask all of you for some highlights of specific things that people here—and I’m going to ask you to stand up and raise your hand. It doesn’t have to be anything recent, but it can be. It doesn’t have to be anything monumental but it can be. It also could be something

that you asked for on someone else's behalf. I'm not trying to keep you late; I know we all have busy schedules, but I don't want to rush through this either. So, at this time, I'd like to see if there's anybody here that would... Malcolm.

**Malcolm:** I lost my job in 2012, now it's 2015. I've been praying to God for a job, obviously. I've had other jobs that were too dangerous, too whatever. The job I've got now, I just got last week, it builds upon every skill that I've picked up, from twenty years ago until two weeks ago. Every skill. And it expands beyond those skills to give me better understanding, so I have a career, as opposed to just having a job.

**Jesse:** Tina received a complete healing in her hand. She has no more pain in her hand.

**Samantha:** I herniated a disc in my back in 2010, and, it became worse after I had my son, I stress-fractured my spine. I prayed and prayed and prayed, and, the day I was baptized, I haven't had any pain in my back since.

**Veronica:** This was a couple of weeks ago, I get up in the morning, and I'm prayerful to God that he covers me and my family. I was taking my children to the library, and a car, it went through a stop sign and hit us. I was driving for a good couple of minutes in oncoming traffic. We were kept, and the car that hit us was totaled. There was very little damage to my truck, and we were all fine, and I know that was God.

**Bob H.:** Back in '88, I lost these three fingers in a machine (holding up his right hand, with his thumb, what was left of his index finger and his middle finger extended). They were going to cut my thumb off because it actually died. So, they were going to cut my thumb off, but you notice I still have my thumb. God healed my thumb, after we prayed that week-end. Amen.

**Jason:** I've been asking God to get me a day-shift job so that I could see my daughter, who is finished with potty-training—yay! She's going to be starting school here, soon, and I wanted to see her, and I can't do that on night-shift. I asked God for that, and I was praying for humility in my life. God gave me assistant foreman of a signal gang, so I got put on day-shift, and it humbled me.

**Gloria:** My granddaughter, who has had grand-mal seizures, up to seven a day, and we prayed over her, and even today, she's had no more seizures.

**Mike H:** During the course of my life, I didn't have a good church home to go to, until I came up here, and I wasn't feeling the Word, until now. Jesse, and yourself, Chris, and Parrish, and now I'm feeling the joy of the Word.

**Mike O:** I can relate to the seizures. A long time ago, we used to pray for everybody, every ailment; we still do, but my wife would ask me, "Why don't you pray for yourself?" I always thought, "Seizures I can handle." And I went through life, and I had one, and then I had another. I had one at church. One day, I said, "Okay, I give it to you," and, I wasn't expecting this: I had one, I got a huge skull fracture. Believe it or not, that was God. I haven't had one since.

**Arman:** We went on vacation to the Philippines, back in 2005. My niece came to me—we were having a prayer in the living room, and my niece came to me, and she said, you know, that they've been



trying to have a child, a baby, with her husband for a long time, but... So, we prayed, and then I left. Six months after that, I heard that she was expecting.

**Linda:** A few years back, Mike and I were in California, and his grandmother, we had gone up to see once, and nobody had heard from her. She had a lady that lived with her, and we went, and she wasn't there. Nobody knew what had happened, nobody had called Mike's mom, and, so, we have to find the nurse; I don't even know her name. Mike's mom, she's just a praying lady. She prays about everything. That meant that, right there, "Okay, God, You've got to help us find this lady, in Jesus' name." And, believe it or not, we went to Applebee's, and Mike said, "I've just got to go ask that lady if that's her." And it as her nurse. It was the lady, and we found out that she (Mike's grandmother) had passed away, and we got the information that we needed, and that was kind of a miracle of God.

I'll take two more. Alex, and then Parrish, and then we'll wrap up.

**Alex:** God helped me to quit smoking about ten years ago.

That's a tough habit to break.

**Parrish:** I moved up here over thirty years ago, and when I moved here, I didn't have a job. I've had asthma all my life, and I was having severe bronchitis; I went to the hospital a couple of times. One night, I went to the altar, and I said, "God, I need a job to pay my finances, to pay my tithes and my offerings, that I could help other people. God, a job that would increase my knowledge, humble me, and yet build me up, and a job that will last. This was almost thirty years ago; I still have that job. And, as far as healing me, in the altar, when I asked God to take away my asthma, and the bronchitis, that I've had all my life; in the altar, it happened. Thirty years ago.

Thank you all very much for your participation, and sharing some of your answers from God; that we seek, we ask, and God delivers. Thank you very much, and God bless.

Christian Fellowship  
GREAT LAKES