

Even 1

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Luke 11:9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Luke 11:10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Luke 11:11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?

Luke 11:12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. Let's think about that for just a moment.

The Holy Spirit is a person; and He is God. When you become a Christian, God the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. If He is already in you, why are you supposed to ask Father to give Him to you?

The only answer I can see is that you need a greater experience of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Think of someone you love to spend time with. Don't you sometimes get to be with them for extended periods and have a great time?

You might object, saying that since the Holy Spirit lives within you, He is 'always there.' True; but do you really have a sense of His immediate presence?

Let me put it this way. Christians, especially more conservative ones, are reluctant to go around asking, seeking, and knocking for the Holy Spirit because it doesn't 'fit' their theology. Most commentators spend all their time arguing why we don't need to ask for more!

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The verbs used mean, Ask, and keep on asking; seek, and keep on seeking; knock, and keep on knocking. In other words, you need to maintain an awareness of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit moment-by-moment throughout your day.

There may be a progression in the three verbs in the sense that you get more and more intense as you go from asking to seeking to knocking. I rather think it is just three ways of saying the same thing. I think that because the point Jesus seems to be making is that your Father has no reluctance at all in giving you the Holy Spirit. He’s not holding back until He sees how serious you are; or in response to your beating down Heaven’s door. He wants you to ask and then, by faith, believe Him and receive the Holy Spirit.

You must ask or seek or knock continually because, as humans, we have a tendency to think we are sufficient in ourselves.

You are promised that Father will give you the Holy Spirit. To reinforce this promise of the Spirit, Jesus tells another little story:

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Luke 11:12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

This is similar to parents jokingly saying that they sent their kids out to play on the freeway! It is immediately understood that you would never do such a thing. Neither would your heavenly Father. If you ask, especially for the Holy Spirit, He gives Him to you.

There may be a whole study here about spiritual counterfeits. It’s been pointed out by many commentators that a stone looks like the loaf of bread baked in the first century; that a serpent can be mistaken for a fish; or that the middle eastern white scorpion can look like an egg. For sure, many

things are passed-off as being from or about the Holy Spirit that are really false, fleshly displays.

More to our application: The illustration suggests a sense of fullness. The father gives his son a three course meal – bread, fish, and eggs. Your Father in heaven wants you to have a sense that your ministry to others is filled with the Holy Spirit. In other words, it's not your wisdom or insight that you are setting before them as spiritual food, but rather those things that are suggested to you by the Holy Spirit as He influences you, and as you yield to His influence.

Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

You are already a son; God is already your Father. The person in this verse is a Christian who is told he or she can have a greater, fuller, experience with the Holy Spirit; and that you should keep on asking for His presence and power in your life moment-by-moment and day-by-day.

We need to forget our backgrounds and biases and take God at His word.

- Some of us tend to be more conservative. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells us, but we're not asking Him to be given to us to fill us. We think that our personal study and discipline are all that is required to live the Christian life. We think we can memorize all the right answers to the needs of others. We ask Father to bless our wisdom and insight rather than asking for, seeking for, even knocking for, His.
- Others of us tend to be more charismatic. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells us, but we only believe He has filled us if we speak with tongues or prophesy or experience some other outward experience of His presence. We are reluctant, or we refuse, to tell people that God's grace is sufficient in their suffering.

Neither extreme is accurate! You can, and should, ask your heavenly Father to give you the Holy Spirit. But His coming upon you is never to call attention to Himself, or to you, but to reveal Jesus to others by giving you power to serve.

“Go ask your Father.” He will delight to give you two things:

1. The spiritual food that your ‘friends’ really need.
2. The fullness of the Spirit that you need in order to set the food before them.

