

↪ **Have you ever put in a request to God and gotten a substitute?** You do know that isn't a supply issue, right? If God does give you a substitute it is for your own good and never of a similar nature to what you've asked, it's not a lateral move at all, "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think", Ephesians 3:20. Jesus promises a substitution that will blow your mind. Come stupidly with a request that matters only to you and God is glad to hear it, you don't have to have a good reason; it doesn't have to make sense. In the scheme of things, do you really know the best things to ask? Considering the greatness of our God and vastness of His kingdom and His eternal purposes, what will you bring to Him that isn't trivial by comparison? We wrongly think that God is like us, but we are sinners and, consequently think our time and resources are more important than most needs. God is no sinner, He's not selfish, if God sleeps (He doesn't), wake Him up; if God is too busy (He never is), interrupt Him. Jesus promised if He doesn't give you exactly what you asked for, that means He'll give you more!

☒ **Jesus now pivots from our attitude and action in prayer to our attitude about the results.**

- ✓ Our prayers are answered based on the principle that fathers know how to do good for their children. So, a friend may answer the door because he's your friend, but a father will answer your request because you are his child. Luke 11:11-13 "Being evil," notice, He doesn't say those who do evil, but, instead, those who are evil, a state of being. His audience is the same ones He's teaching to pray and come boldly to the throne of grace, His disciples, these same ones He says aren't just capable of evil but are evil. Matthew 6:13, the same word is used here that we translate as "evil one," we share the same nature as the devil, which should give us pause. Even as followers of Jesus, we have an evil sin principal operative within us, don't underestimate it, and don't overestimate yourself (pride, arrogance, self-esteem). The original one who esteemed himself was the Satan; do the opposite of him. Humble yourself, be completely dependent on God for good, give all the glory to God for that good. Fill yourself with God, you cannot be full of God and full of yourself at the same time.
- ✓ **"Give the Holy Spirit to those who ask"** This statement has always confused me somewhat; it's always made me feel less than mature. Is that what we should be asking for in all our prayers?, instead of what we were going to ask of Him? Is that what Jesus is saying?, "stop asking for anything but the Holy Spirit"? Matthew 7:11, on another occasion Jesus made this statement, that's broad and limitless right? How did the Holy Spirit get in there? Why does He narrow His promise to us? Just the Holy Spirit? In our minds we need the Holy Spirit when we are headed to church or Bible study or prayer time, but right now we really need gas for our car! This isn't a narrowing of His promise, this is a broadening, how can you get broader than all "the good things" that there are. Remember Ephesians 3:20 this is not a substitute or a lateral move, it's far beyond what you could ask or imagine. In fact, it doesn't actually say that we are to ask for the Holy Spirit, instead it says to ask whatever is on your heart, but what God will give you is the Holy Spirit. **In doing so, He's given you immeasurably more...**
 - You ask for comfort; He gives you the Comforter. You ask for help; He gives you the Helper. You ask for truth; He gives you the Teacher of truth. You ask for wisdom; He gives you the Spirit of wisdom. You ask for guidance; He gives you the Guide. You ask for the fruit of the Spirit; He gives you the One who produces it. You ask for the gift; He gives you the Giver. You ask for the effect; He gives you the Cause. You ask for the product; He gives you the Source.

So, come to God at an inappropriate time, with a ridiculous request, do it like a child who doesn't know any better than to just rush in and ask and keeps on asking. Come to Him, you being evil, and God will give you, not just good, God will give to you His very self.