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# AS YOUR FAITH IS

Part 1: How to **Ask** in Faith

Also, How to **Answer** in Faith

## AS YOUR FAITH IS...

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Hebrews 11:1–3 NIV

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who **earnestly seek** him.

Hebrews 11:6 NIV

ἐκζητέω (*ekzēteō*) Legal Term: Be Held Responsible; Bring Charges Against

# WANTED :



## JESUS CHRIST

Alias: The Messiah, The Son Of God, King Of Kings Lord Of Lords, Prince Of Peace, Etc.

- Notorious leader of an underground liberation movement
- Wanted for the following charges:
  - Practicing medicine, winemaking and food distribution without a license.
  - Interfering with businessmen in the temple.
  - Associating with known criminals, radicals, subversives, prostitutes and street people.
  - Claiming to have the authority to make people into God's children.

**APPEARANCE:** Typical hippie type—long hair, beard, robe, sandals.  
> Hangs around slum areas, few rich friends, often sneaks out into the desert.  
**BEWARE:** This man is extremely dangerous. His insidiously inflammatory message is particularly dangerous to young people who haven't been taught to ignore him yet. He changes men and claims to set them free.

**WARNING: HE IS STILL AT LARGE!**

## THE FINGERPRINTS OF GOD

*(ekzēteō) – To Earnestly Seek*

We are to SEEK HIM in Everything!



## AS YOUR FAITH IS...

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him. But **let him ask in faith without doubting**. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord, being double-minded and unstable in all his ways.

James 1:5–8 CSB

# JAMES TELLS IS LIKE IT IS

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have, so you murder. You are envious and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

**You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives**, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world sets himself as an enemy of God.

Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”

**Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and cry. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. **Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.**

James 4:1–10 LSB



# AN OPEN QUESTION FROM THE LORD

Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt by marrying Pharaoh's daughter. Solomon brought her to the city of David until he finished building his palace, the LORD's temple, and the wall surrounding Jerusalem.

However, the people were sacrificing on the high places, because until that time a temple for the LORD's name had not been built. Solomon loved the LORD by walking in the statutes of his father David, but he also sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there because it was the most famous high place. He offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, **"Ask. What should I give you?"**

1 Kings 3:1–5 CSB

## AN HONEST, HUMBLE ANSWER

And Solomon replied, “You have shown great and faithful love to your servant, my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, righteousness, and integrity. You have continued this great and faithful love for him by giving him a son to sit on his throne, as it is today.

“LORD my God, you have now made your servant king in my father David’s place. Yet I am just a youth with no experience in leadership.,

Your servant is among your people you have chosen, a people too many to be numbered or counted. So give your servant a receptive heart to judge your people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours?

1 Kings 3:6–9 CSB



# IT PLEASED THE LORD!

Now it pleased the Lord that Solomon had requested this.

So God said to him, “Because you have requested this and did not ask for long life or riches for yourself, or the death of your enemies, but you asked discernment for yourself to administer justice, I will therefore do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has never been anyone like you before and never will be again.

In addition, I will give you what you did not ask for: both riches and honor, so that no king will be your equal during your entire life. If you walk in my ways and keep my statutes and commands just as your father David did, I will give you a long life.”

Then Solomon woke up and realized it had been a dream. He went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord’s covenant, and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he held a feast for all his servants.

1 Kings 3:10–15 CSB

# TIME FOR TESTING

Then two women who were prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. One woman said, “Please, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was in the house. On the third day after I gave birth, she also had a baby and we were alone. No one else was with us in the house; just the two of us were there.

During the night this woman’s son died because she lay on him. She got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while your servant was asleep. She laid him in her arms, and she put her dead son in my arms. When I got up in the morning to nurse my son, I discovered he was dead. That morning, when I looked closely at him I realized that he was not the son I gave birth to.”

1 Kings 3:15–21 CSB

# QUITE THE QUANDARY

No,” the other woman said. “My son is the living one; your son is the dead one.”

The first woman said, “No, your son is the dead one; my son is the living one.” So they argued before the king.

The king replied, “This woman says, ‘This is my son who is alive, and your son is dead,’ but that woman says, ‘No, your son is dead, and my son is alive.’ ” The king continued, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought the sword to the king. And the king said, “Cut the living boy in two and give half to one and half to the other.”

The woman whose son was alive spoke to the king because she felt great compassion, for her son. “My lord, give her the living baby,” she said, “but please don’t have him killed!” But the other one said, “He will not be mine or yours. Cut him in two!”

1 Kings 3:22–26 CSB

# WISDOM WON

The king responded, “Give the living baby to the first woman, and don’t kill him. She is his mother.”

All Israel heard about the judgment the king had given, and they stood in awe of the king because they saw that God’s wisdom was in him to carry out justice.

1 Kings 3:26–28 CSB



Behold, I send you  
forth as sheep in the  
midst of wolves:  
be ye therefore wise  
as serpents, and  
harmless as doves.

*Matthew 10:16*

## SOLOMON OWNED THIS

And so must we!

- In our communities
- In our witness
- In our parenting
- In our marriages
- In our times of testing
- In our celebrations
- In our learning
- In EVERYTHING

# HE IS FAITHFULLY GROWING US. TRUST HIM!

God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's training, the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's training so we can truly live?

While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God's holy best. At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.

So don't sit around on your hands! No more dragging your feet! Clear the path for long-distance runners so no one will trip and fall, so no one will step in a hole and sprain an ankle. Help each other out. And run for it!

Hebrews 12:6–13 MSG