

**2/27/18**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

You have heard it said, “It doesn’t hurt to ask.” It could hurt depending on the question and who is being asked. A young man asking his girlfriend to marry him and she says, “No,” could be hurtful to the young man. You find your dream car or your dream home and you ask for a loan and you are denied. That could hurt. You ask the doctor if your loved one will recover from a serious illness and the doctor tells you that there is no cure and that your loved one will soon die. That definitely hurts.

Sometimes we don’t want to ask a question or ask for something because we don’t want to be hurt or rejected. Have you ever felt that way when you want to ask God for something? When it comes to asking “our Father who art in heaven” for something, there is no need to be timid or fearful. We can have all the confidence in the world that “our Father who art in heaven” will hear our prayer and answer our prayer according to His good will and according to His boundless love for us. All we need to do is ask.

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. **1 John 5:14,15***

How do you pray? Are you a bit reluctant to bring everything to God? Do you ever dismiss the thought of praying because you doubt that God would give serious consideration to your request? Do you sometimes treat God like a stranger with whom you lack the confidence to strike up a conversation? It shouldn’t ever be that way for God’s children. Instead we should have the same boldness that children display when it comes to asking their parents for something. There’s no hesitation in their little voices. Knowing their parents’ love and commitment for them, little children trust that they are attentive to their needs.

Now, I grant you, children don’t always understand how things work for us in this world. They are confident that our bank accounts are limitless resources of ready cash. They think that our energy

level is always equal to or greater than their own. Time is not considered in the calculation of what they ask of us. They simply remain confident in our ability to produce, until one day they come to know that their parents are not infinite sources of everything.

Though we are limited in many ways, our heavenly Father is not. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, we have gained access to him, and he is favorably disposed towards us. Jesus told us, “Ask and it will be given to you” (Matthew 7:7a). The prophet Isaiah wrote, “Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear” (Isaiah 59:1).

In Jesus, “we know that he hears us—whatever we ask.” As God’s dear children, we are confident in approaching him with our requests. Our faith in Christ moves us to pray and his Word directs our prayers to seek that God’s will be done in our lives. In this way, “we know that we have what we asked of him.”

Guided by his Word, pray with confidence, Christian! Your Father is listening.

***Prayer:*** *Dear heavenly Father, make me confident of your desire to hear my prayers. Grant my requests according to your will for my life and through the love you have shown me in Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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