



October 2015

Dear friends,

Have we stopped asking?

Are we doing... operating... going... giving without first asking? Or after we have received the vision, been given the dream, do we think that we have arrived and there is no longer a need to ask more? Are we fundraising more than we are praying? Are we strategizing and forming ideas more than we are asking? Are we thinking and talking more than we are praying and asking?

In John 6, after Jesus tells the Jews and the crowd that they must eat his flesh and drink his blood to be raised on the last day, many of his followers turned back and no longer walked with him. So he asks the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Peter answers, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." I love this so much and if you will, allow me to paraphrase in my own words and assume the posture in which Peter said this:

... "Lord... dude, really? Where am I gonna go? I have nowhere else to go and I don't want to go anywhere else. I believe in you, I trust you, I need you. I have no other place to be except with you and go where you go. I want to be with you, I HAVE to be with you."

If we could be like Peter, desperate to be with Jesus and go wherever he is...but I think that requires us to ask him.

But let's back it on up.... Jesus himself said that he, the Son, "could do nothing of his own accord but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing." Wait a minute; it seems that Jesus had to ask too! He couldn't do anything apart from the Father... and I don't want to either.

I don't want to give my money here, unless you tell me...

I don't want to work here, unless you lead...

I don't want to live here, unless you want to take the kingdom to this place...

I don't want to be a part of this or do that unless I hear from you...

And when I hear from you.... I will.

Even if it seems biblical or seems right, or shoot even seems like something "Jesus would do" have you first stopped and asked if it is what the Spirit is leading?

So we, like Jesus, should do what we see the Father doing. And I think THAT requires asking. But how do we hear the answer?

A brother and sister came to Birmingham last weekend and taught us one way to hear from the Father. I hope this proves as helpful for you as it has for me.

First we can ask the Father to help us clear our minds, to rest from the to do list, the distractions, the pulling of this way and that way. Then once we are free, we can then meditate on the person and Gospel of Jesus Christ. Letting those truths and memories wash over us (which will probably lead to a mini worship session!) Then we ask and wait... and when we have heard we write it down.

There is so much confidence and freedom to hear from our Father and to be led by our Helper, the Holy Spirit.

Father, give us grace for when we have not sought you. Help us to pray before we do. Help us to be children who ask their Father for everything; children who are dependent. We want to be led by you. Fill us with your Spirit. Help us hear your voice, Great Shepherd. Give us your eyes, oh wise, all knowing One. We don't want to do anything apart from you. We trust you and need you; we will wait on you. Give us the strength to be obedient when we hear from you. Amen.