

# Rossville Church of Christ

# Doorpost Devo



August 27, 2023



## Encouragement from God's Word

### Matthew 7:7-11: Disciples Ask

Sometimes asking for help feels like an admission of defeat. Asking for directions is a recognition that I am not as skilled as a navigator as I thought. Requesting help in carrying a heavy load reveals that I am not strong enough. It is an act of humility and vulnerability to ask what we need from others. Often we do not ask for help because we do not want to burden others, we do not trust others, or we are filled with pride that prevents us from asking.

### Scripture Plan: Read

Mon, Tues, Wed.:

1 John 5:1-12 Each Night

Thurs., Fri., Sat.:

1 John 5:13-21 Each Night

### Devo Plan

1. Mon.--Read and Pray Together
2. Tues.--Read, Pray, Ask Questions, and Discuss
3. Wed.--Read, Pray, and Think about how to Apply
4. Thurs.-Sat.--Repeat steps 1-3 with New Passage
5. Sunday--Pray and Reflect on What was Learned in Worship and Class

# Rossville Church of Christ

# Doorpost Devo



August 27, 2023

## Discussion Questions

1 John 5:1-12

Discussion Question #1: What is the victory that overcomes the world? What does John mean by this? How should we live in light of this victory?

Discussion #2: How do we know if we have been born of God? What does it mean to be born of God?

Discussion #3: What does it mean "that there are three that testify?" Why does John include this?

1 John 5:13-21

Discussion #1: Can we be confident about having eternal life? How does that change how we live?

Discussion #2: What kinds of things should we pray for? What things should we not pray for?

Discussion #3: How do we apply this passage to our lives?

## Apply and Obey

To obey what God says, this upcoming week I will...

I will share what I learned with...

## Prayer Points

- Lord, Thank You--for overcoming the world and the evil one through Jesus.
- Lord, We Praise You--that you hear us and that you give us eternal life.
- 
- Lord, Help Us-to trust in you and to love you and others more and more.

Disciples of Jesus are called to live in a different way. The way of discipleship is not the path of self-sufficiency. Disciples do not simply grit through the pain and struggle through without assistance from others. Christians ought not to feign self-reliance. Followers of Jesus recognize their dependence and consistently go to the ultimate source of strength and help. Consider the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:7-11:

**“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”**

Our Father above knows everything we need before we ask Him, yet He still insists that we ask, seek, and knock. The asking is for our benefit because it deepens our relationship and dependence on the Father above. It reminds us of our need and opens our eyes to the source of all good, the Father Himself. When we neglect to ask, we pursue solutions to our problems by our own wisdom and strength. But when we ask, seek, and knock, we learn to trust in God’s generosity, wisdom, and promises. When we wait to receive from God, we start to realize what we really need. Our priorities change and our perception of our needs are aligned to God’s will and purpose more and more. We begin to understand that He knows what is best. He will not give us a snake when we need a fish. Even more, He will not give us anything that harms us even when we ask for things that are not good for us. The process of asking, seeking, and knocking helps us to see this more clearly. It helps us to come to know the Father who loves us deeply and who wants to hear from His beloved children.

As we grow in maturity, we grow to understand that our greatest need to ask for is God Himself. The relationship is the gift. His presence is the treasure. But He must be sought. He must be pursued. He wants us to want Him. He wants us to know we need Him. In this way, He gets all the glory. He is shown to be powerful in our weakness. He is exalted as what is truly valuable.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates." --Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Are our lives as disciples characterized by a deep dependence on God the Father? Do we only ask Him for what we need as a last resort? Do we only turn to Him when we have exhausted all other resources? Are we asking, seeking, and knocking in all the wrong places? Even Jesus Himself asked for what He needed. He constantly turned back to the source of all wisdom and strength. When Jesus was grieving, He prayed. When He was joyful, He prayed. When He couldn't see another way, He asked. When He was exhausted, He prayed. When He was tempted, He prayed. When He was making big decisions, He prayed. If we are constantly feeling weak, burned out, overwhelmed, anxious, and without what we need, perhaps we do not have because we do not ask. Or perhaps we have not received because we are pursuing the wrong things in the wrong places. Our Father is trustworthy. He never gets exhausted by our asking. He is not wearied by our needs. He is never unsure about what to give us. He is the inexhaustible source of abundant riches. He supply us with everything we need to be everything He wants us to be. So as we walk through life, let us follow the example of our Lord Jesus. Let us be people who ask, seek, and knock.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates." --Deuteronomy 6:4-9