

## Petitionary Prayer

**pe-ti-tion-** *A request on behalf of ourselves to a superior authority*

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find;  
knock, and it will be opened to you Luke 11:7

*Petitionary Prayer remains primary throughout our lives because we are forever dependent upon God. It is something we never really “get beyond,” nor should we even want to. -Richard Foster*

**1.) If we are ‘forever dependent upon God,’ what needs are we to continually petition God for?**

Give us day by day our **daily bread**. Matthew 6:11

*Petition, then, is not a lower form of prayer. It is our staple diet. In a childlike expression of faith we bring our daily needs and desires to our heavenly Father. -Richard Foster*

**2) Christ felt comfortable asking His Heavenly Father for “trivialities” such as bread. Are you comfortable seeking your Father for minor needs, or do you tend to reserve your petitions for desperate situations?**

**3) Why would God want us to petition Him for minor needs, particularly if He knows what we need in advance?**

9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being 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! Matthew 7:9-11

*Love loves to be told what it knows already...It wants to be asked for what it longs to give...God likes to be asked. We like our children to ask us for things that we already know they need because the very asking enhances and deepens the relationship. -Richard Foster*

**4) If God is willing to provide answers to our prayers, is it fair to say that Petitionary Prayer is our amazing privilege and responsibility to God? Why or why not?**

Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. James 4:2-3

*Petitionary Prayer centers on us and our needs, we are not disinterested parties. It is far easier to pray with clarity regarding matters that have no direct impact upon us than regarding our infected toe. This must never keep us from praying for our own needs, for we are commanded to do so, but it should remind us that we are capable of infinite self-deception. -Richard Foster*

**5) As we continue to pray for our needs and desires, how can we be sure our prayers are pure? Should we continue to seek God for the things we aren’t sure we need or will be beneficial to us in the end?**

*The things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us the grace to labor for.*  
St. Thomas Moore

**6) Petitionary Prayer creates a partnership with our Heavenly Father. If he gives us bread, he will give us the means to obtain it. When we ask for more are we willing to make the sacrifices in behavior, attitude, time and labor to receive our petitions?**

**7) How should you go about praying for success in your career and artistic endeavors? Is it right to do so?**

The Haven mission statement is:

***To empower artists to influence the culture for Christ.***

### Discussion Guidelines:

1. Allow everyone a chance to speak. If you are bursting with ideas and tend to share a lot – great – but occasionally pause a bit before you go, sometimes the quieter ones are just waiting for their chance and they need a little space before they go.
2. Respect the opinions of others, and refrain from giving advice.
3. Keep discussion focused on the material being studied.
4. Maintain the confidentiality of personal things shared within the group.