

Ask receive, search find

(A). Internet

“What is blindness? How is it healed?” Do you want to know? On your computer or smartphone enter the questions into a search engine and you will receive answers. If some answers are not good enough search other engines, and keep asking till you find all the information you want.

Similarly, if you want to know about other topics, do the same: ask receive, search find.

(B). Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus says: “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; everyone who searches finds; everyone who knocks will have the door opened.” (Lk 11:9-10, NJB)

Here are some examples of those who asked Jesus and received.

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind beggar on the road asked him for mercy – the healing of his blindness. The people scolded him and told him to keep quiet. But he persisted by shouting even louder. Jesus stopped, called him over and, on hearing his request, said to him: “Receive your sight. Your faith has saved you.” (Lk 18:42, NJB) At once his sight returned. He followed Jesus, glorifying God. And all the people gave praise to God.

One day Jesus was teaching inside a jam-packed house. Some men brought a paralytic on a stretcher seeking to ask Jesus for a healing and receiving a miracle; but they could not even get close. They persevered by climbing onto the roof, removed some tiles, and lowered the sick man into the room. When Jesus saw their determination and their great faith, he said to the sick man, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.” And then, to prove to the doubters that he could forgive sins, he added: “I tell you, rise, take your mat and go home.” He got on his feet immediately, picked up the mat on which he had been lying, and went home healed, glorifying God. All the people were amazed; filled with awe, they gave glory to God. (See Lk 5:17–26, NIV)

At Cana in Galilee, a royal official whose son was severely ill in Capernaum heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea. He made the trip to meet Jesus, and humbly asked him to come and heal his son who was near death. Jesus complained, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.” Unperturbed, the official continued to beg, “Sir, come down before my son dies.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed what Jesus said. During the day-long return journey to his house, his servants came to meet him on the way with the exciting news: the son’s fever had subsided, and he had received his health back. Upon enquiring when this took place, the official discovered that it happened at the exact hour when Jesus said: “Your son will live.” He and his entire household came to believe. (See Jn 4:46–53, RSV)

The next example is from Luke’s Gospel. “When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, ‘This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.’ So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: ‘Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, “Go,” and he goes; and that one, “Come,” and he comes. I say to

my servant, “Do this,” and he does it.’ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, ‘I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.’ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.” (Lk 7:1-10, NIV).

Before Jesus died on the cross, a thief who had been crucified next to him, ignoring the impertinent criminal crucified on the other side of Jesus, asked of the Lord, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Right at that minute he received the assurance: “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (See Lk 23:42, 43, RSV)

What is the difference between (A) and (B)?

The internet *answers questions* by giving lots of *information*, independence and self-satisfaction. Jesus *answers requests for favours* by giving lots of *love and mercy, miracles, healing, faith, forgiveness, eternal salvation, life, and joy*.

We started out asking: “What is blindness? How is it healed?” Check the internet; but bear in mind that blindness does not refer to the eye only, but to the heart and the soul as well.

In your daily life, examine where you place the balance between (A) and (B). How many hours do you spend on (A)? How many hours do you spend on (B)?

Whatever you need, whomever you ask, give proportionate time to the Lord. Never forget that Jesus alone can make this promise: “In all truth I tell you, anything you ask from the Father he will grant in my name... Ask and you will receive, and so your joy will be complete.” (Jn 16:23, 24, NJB)