

Permission to Speak Freely – The Art of Asking  
Vineyard Church of Ann Arbor  
February 10-11, 2007  
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27)

Ken launched the series by offering us this hope:

**We receive permission to speak freely in the secret chambers of prayer; there we learn to grant others the same permission; thus we become a community that learns to "speak the truth in love" and brings that freedom into the world.**

**The art of asking** includes the process of humbling oneself to ask for help, permission, and forgiveness.

In Matthew 7:7-11 Jesus gives us permission to ask. In fact, He invites us to ask:

**“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (Matt 7:7)**

Our ability to speak freely involves our ability to ask. And if we are in doubt of the outcome, if we face the uncertainty of asking, if we are there staring down fear before asking, Jesus offers us this promise:

**For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matt 7:8)**

Anticipating our uncertainty, and our fear, Jesus continues:

**Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!**

The command to ask, seek, and knock is in the present tense imperative in the Greek, so it could be restated as:

Keep on asking...  
Keep on seeking...  
Keep on knocking...

It's not passive asking; instead it's bold, active, expectant. It's about not giving up and not giving in... it's about thrusting our

hope and faith on a God who is near to us, who is able to hear us and who has promised to be with us. [Luke 18:1-7a]

It's also about acknowledging that the answer we receive isn't always the answer we want. [2 Corinthians 12:7-10a]

### **What happens when we practice the art of asking?**

#### **It humbles us...**

**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3)**

**For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (Matt 6:14)**

#### **It acknowledges our dependence on God and others**

**Give us today our daily bread. (Matt 6:11)**

**“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” (Psalm 46:10)**

#### **It creates community...**

**“Because you are, I am.”  
– Bishop Desmond Tutu**

**For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. (Romans 12:3-6)**