



Part 2: *Intimacy with an Invisible Dad*

Being a hippie is not a matter of dress, behaviour, economic status, or social milieu. It is a philosophical approach to life that emphasizes freedom, peace, love and a respect for others and the earth. The way of the hippie never died. There have always been hippies, such as Jesus, from the first time society laid down rules.

~ Skip Stone, *Hippies From A To Z*

Probably the greatest tragedy of the church throughout its long and chequered history has been its constant tendency to conform to the prevailing culture instead of developing a Christian counter-culture.

~ John Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*

If it were the case that whatever we ask, God was pledged to give, then I for one would never pray again, because I would not have sufficient confidence in my own wisdom to ask God for anything. And I think if you consider it you will agree. It would impose an intolerable burden on frail human wisdom if by his prayer-promises God was pledged to give whatever we ask, when we ask it, and in exactly the terms we ask. How could we bear the burden?

~ Alec Motyer, *Studies in the Epistle of James*

Jesus speaks of prayer as a burning pursuit of God. This asking is an asking for the virtues Jesus has just expounded; this seeking is a seeking for God; this knocking is a knocking at heaven's throne room.

~ D. A. Carson, *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount*

I thank God that He is not prepared to do anything that I may chance to ask Him. ... I am profoundly grateful to God that He did not grant me certain things for which I asked, and that He shut certain doors in my face.

~ Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*

If he is a father, let's treat him as a father, not a bureaucrat or dictator who wouldn't want to be bothered with our trivial and irrelevant concerns.

~ N.T. Wright, *Matthew for Everyone*

God is working like an artist with difficult material; and prayer is the way some of that material co-operates with the artist instead of resisting him.

~ N.T. Wright, *Matthew for Everyone*

The trick, of course, is to learn how to live on the basis of gift. We fear receiving, requiring as it does the acknowledgement of our dependence and our need for forgiveness. To be forgiven, to ask for forgiveness, forges a space, making possible a community that has learned to live by receiving.

~ Stanley Hauerwas, *Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible*

Only through prayer can believers stay in contact with God, know what he wants them to do, and then have the strength to do God's will in all areas of life.

~ Linda K. Taylor, *Life Application New Testament Commentary*

Come, my soul, thy suit prepare;
Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not say thee nay.

Thou are coming to a King;
Large petitions with thee bring;
For his grace and power are such,
None can ever ask too much.

~ John Newton (1725-1807)

You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

~ James the brother of Jesus

I am the way.

~ Jesus