



## Decade of Availability The Maturing Heart

Pastor Darrell Ward

*“For everyone who asks receives,  
and he who seeks finds,  
and to him who knocks it will be opened.”*

Matthew 7:8

**Introduction:** In *Matthew 7:8* Jesus is teaching about our attitudes of the heart. These attitudes represent a progression or maturing of the heart. The verbs ask, seek, and knock indicate intensity. To seek is more intense than to ask and to knock is the most intense.

### I. The Asking Heart *Ask and it shall be given...*

Asking implies a gift will be given. “The gift is ours for the asking.” Such as salvation, forgiveness, healing, the Holy Spirit, wisdom, daily bread...

- A. **Two different attitudes** from the asking heart: One is to become so wrapped up in the gifts that we forget the giver. The other is to focus on the giver and be grateful for the gifts.
- B. **We fail to ask because** we are either too proud—self sufficient—or to fearful (underserving).
- C. **Remember** “He is our Father in Heaven” and “...every good and perfect gift comes from above.” James 4:2-3

*God gives gifts to the ‘asking heart, but  
He has blessings that He only reveals to the ‘seeking heart!’*

### II. The Seeking Heart *Seek and you will find...*

The seeking heart will go after, pursue and search out. The shepherd went after the lost sheep, the woman searched diligently for the lost coin and the father looked afar for the lost son.

- A. **The seeking heart is more fervent** than the asking heart. Mt 6:33; Psa 27:8
- B. **We will not know His treasures** by asking—but by seeking. Col 2:3; Col 3:1-2; I Cor 3:1; Matt 7:6 God gives His gifts but guards His treasures!
- C. **A seeking heart reveals our secret desire.** Psa 63:1 “O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You.” Ps 27:4 “One thing have I desired and will seek...that I may dwell in the house of the Lord.” Isa 58:2 “Seek me day by day and delight to know my ways.” Heb 11:6 “God rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

*A seeking heart involves removing all our personal  
ambitions and desires that would hinder seeking Him.*

### III. The Knocking Heart *Knock and it shall be opened to you...*

Knocking is the right use of the truth God has entrusted to us. Are we not responsible for the gifts and the treasures He has revealed to us?

- A. **Knocking is connected with a door of opportunity.** In *Matthew 25* the (immature) unfaithful servant ‘dug a hole and hid his master’s gifts.’ The (mature) faithful servant ‘put his masters gift to work and gained more.’
- B. **Three ways to go through doors:** 1) Pick the lock 2) Break it down 3) Knock and let the Lord open it.

*If we fail to ASK, we forfeit His gifts  
If we fail to SEEK we lack the treasures of His Kingdom  
If we refuse to KNOCK our Christian service will not bear fruit.*

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”*

II Peter 3:18

*“Beloved I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health just as your soul prospers.”*

III John 1:2

**James 4:2-3 (NKJV)**

2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

**Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)**

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

**Psalms 27:8 (NKJV)**

8 When You said, “Seek My face,” My heart said to You, “Your face, Lord, I will seek.”

**Col 2:3 (NKJV)**

“...in whom [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**Col 3:1-2 (NKJV)**

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth

**I Cor 3:1 (NKJV)**

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual [seeking] people but as to carnal [asking], as to babes in Christ.

**Matthew 7:6 (NKJV)**

“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”



# Village Church of Laguna Woods



## Majesty

Majesty, worship His majesty  
Unto Jesus be all glory honor and praise  
Majesty, kingdom authority  
Flows from His throne unto His own  
His anthem raise  
So exalt, lift up on high  
The Name of Jesus  
Magnify, come glorify  
Christ Jesus the King  
Majesty, worship His majesty,  
Jesus who died now glorified  
King of all Kings

## Soup Groups

*Remember that our Soup Groups are now meeting. If you missed the sign up we do have a few spots open so see Lynora Wilson today if you want to join us.*



## Schedule - Calendar

### Today Mar 10 **Worship Service**

10:15 a.m. Clubhouse 7 Pastor Darrell Ward will be sharing the Word. Pastor Darrell and Lenora Ward founded the Village Church over 30 years ago.



### Fri March 15 **Bible Study**

10:15 a.m. Clubhouse 3 Rehearsal Rm. Pastor Mike continues a verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of John. We'll be in John 8.

### Sunday Mar 17 **Worship Service**

10:15 a.m. Clubhouse 7 Pastor Mike continues our series on the book of Acts.

### Wed Jan 23 **FFHM Mailing**

9-11:00 a.m. in the recreation room located in the underground garage parking area of 3420 Calle Azul cul-de-sac 343 Gate 10. Call Lois Schofield for information 949-310-2484.

### Fri March 22 **Bible Study**

10:15 a.m. Clubhouse 3 Rehearsal Rm. Pastor Mike continues a verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of John.

### Sunday Mar 24 **Palm Sunday**

10:15 a.m. Clubhouse 7

### Fri March 29 **Good Friday Service**

10:15 a.m. Clubhouse 3 Rehearsal Rm.

### Sunday Mar 31 **Resurrection Sunday**

10:15 a.m. Clubhouse 7

**Resurrection Sunday  
Fellowship Breakfast 9:30 a.m.**

## Photo Directory

Pastor Noel will be taking photos right after the service for our photo directory.



## The Village Church

Mailing Address: 24310 Moulton Pkway Suite O Unit 540  
Laguna Woods CA 92637 — 949-264-1617 — VillageAlive.com

**Sundays Clubhouse 7 10:15 a.m. —**

**Fridays Clubhouse 3 10:15 a.m.**

Mike Bayer, Pastor : Home/Cell 714-323-6145

Noel Wilson, Worship Pastor: 949-587-3007