

# The Way of Wisdom

## SM John 15:7

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### Way of Wisdom: Review

- Who can recite our recent verses?
  - “crucified”
  - “sacrifice”
  - “Book of the Law”
  - “in Christ”
  - “God-breathed”
  - “commands”

Let’s recite our recent verses

### John 15:7

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

### John 15:7

Here is today’s verse: It’s a wonderful and terrifying promise.

### Emily’s Story

(part 1)

I was 10 years old living in a rainforest community with my doll, “Rosie-baby” and I got my first Bible and I learned this verse. So I asked if my beloved doll would come to life.

“It can’t be that easy”

### Q&A:

Why does this verse seem impossible and simplistic?

Let’s be honest: we ask for things and we haven’t gotten them.

- We might be afraid of getting them.
- God doesn’t owe us anything. I
- didn’t get it right and will be punished.
- I asked for something too big.
- It feels hard to believe when you’ve been asking a long

time.

Let's do our best  
to take John 15:7 seriously  
while understanding complexity.

Our goal: I want us to take this verse seriously and not explain it away until it doesn't exist. To do this we need more understanding. This is hard: how do you deepen belief when prayers go unanswered.

### John 15:7

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

### John 15:7

#### Review #1

### John \_\_:7

\_\_ \_\_ remain in \_\_ \_\_ my words \_\_  
\_\_ you, ask \_\_ \_\_ wish, and \_\_ \_\_  
be done \_\_ \_\_.

\_\_ \_\_: \_\_

Try to fill  
in the  
blanks.

I asked some people what they  
would want to say, if they were  
preaching on John 15:7 ...

#### Idea #1 – Remain

### John 15:7

If you **remain** in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

### John 15:7

I was told the key verse is REMAIN. Another person said the key word was WISH. another person said this verse made them feel judged (if you were OK, this verse would work).

I came up with FIVE PRINCIPLES which

#### John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Want
- Remain
- Change

#### John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask boldly
- Ask hopefully
- Remain
- Change

John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask boldly
- Ask humbly
- Ask hopefully
- Ask in relationship
- Ask to ask better

5. Ask to ask better

1. God wants us to ask boldly for crazy, unreasonable and
2. Go want us to ask hopefully with belief.
3. We need to ask humbly with awareness of our limitations. Whatever we ask factors in that we are not God.
4. God is infinite and we are finite: There is no reason we should even begin to comprehend him but he has reached out to us in relationship which feeds into our asking. We know God loves us.

John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask boldly
  - Small
  - Big
- God wants us to ask like children!

We need to ask boldly, both small and big, like children. We are 2 year olds before our Father: we really don't understand much except that daddy has the power to do amazing things.

John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask boldly
  - **Small**
  - Big
- Q&A:**  
What are the silliest things you've heard kids ask for?

- Frosting
- A horse
- Siblings
- More Time
- A spear

John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask boldly
  - **Small**
  - Big
- Q&A:**  
What are some small things you want, but would be embarrassed to ask God for?

- Find my hairbrush
- UA basketball to win
- Not rain while I'm walking
- Catch the green lights when I'm late for work but I trust you Lord if it's red (both are prayer opportunities)

God is engaged with your world but He's not a genie: but he grins when he gives you something good and laments when He can't. Both are opportunities for relationships.

John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask boldly

- Small
- **Big**

**Q&A:**

What are some huge things you want, but it seems unreasonable to ask?

- A house
- 30-yr draught to end
- Physical healing

Ask Boldly

**Matthew 7:7-11**

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Which of you, if your 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 true master of the world is science is how we’ve been taught.
- ASK about the small things and the gigantic things you don’t think he would ever do

Ask Boldly

Let’s be clear...

There was nothing wrong  
with Emily’s request for Rosie Baby.  
God loved her,  
and loved her request.

There was nothing wrong with Emily’s prayer: God loves her and loves that she asked.

John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask boldly
- Ask humbly
- **Ask hopefully**
- Ask in relationship
- Ask to ask better

Let’s ask with HOPE.

John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask boldly

- Small
- **Big**

**Q&A:**

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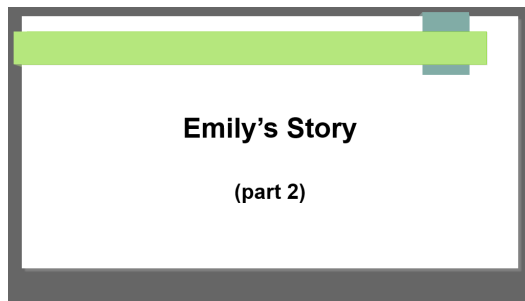
### John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask hopefully
  - Goodness
  - Power
- Fiery furnace
- Mary's belief
- Paul and Caesar
- Red Sea
- Goliath
- Mt. Carmel
- Abraham's sacrifice

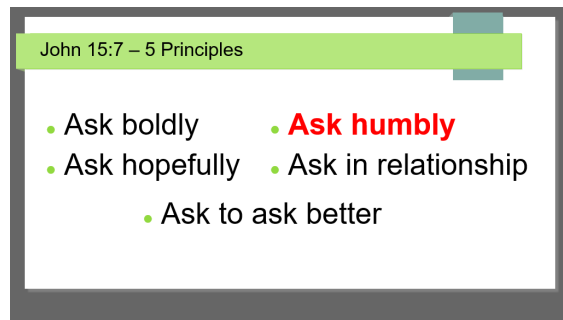
Think carefully about God's power: don't be trapped that miracles happened in the old days or never at all: They still happen today.

Fiery Furnace: They knew God could save them but even if He doesn't, we won't bow to the idol.

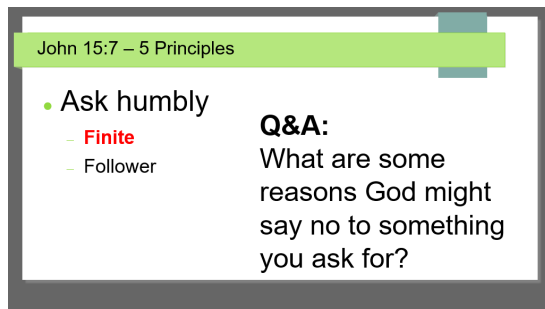
Goliath: Young David gets angry when he hears Goliath utter blasphemous words. David concludes that both he and God were upset and believed God would make it work. Therefore, he charged forward. This was someone who believed! I don't know God's exact plan but I trust whatever he chooses. I rely and rest that the destination will be good.



Emily is now 22 and brought to her mind how she had shut him out. She has since discovered that she can go to him as a child and ask whatever she wants.

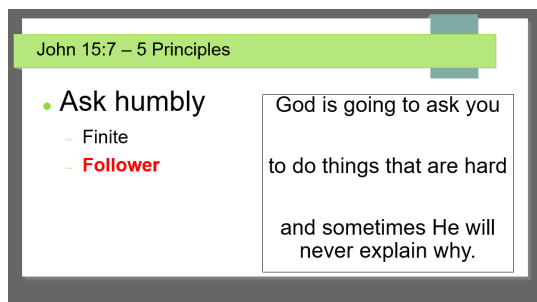


The key to remaining is to ask humbly: We are finite creature who don't know the future. We have opinions but they don't have authority.



- I've asked for something bad
- To protect me from myself
- We don't know God's purpose
- He wants me to wait
- He has a plan for someone else
- He is leading our desires for something more beautifully
- You can better love your community through your own sorrow

- You're wrong



Job loves God so much and wants to put God's righteousness on display. But Job's experience is apocalyptic.

Paul thinks it's obvious that he was in prison because more people could hear the Gospel, even though he wouldn't have chosen it for himself.

You are finite and God sometimes asks you to do things that are very, very hard without a reason. If You say I ought to do it,

#### John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask humbly
  - Finite
  - **Follower**
- David's son
- Job stays true
- Jonah
- David on the run
- Paul's thorn
- Stephen

- David's son is sick; he mourns and prays that God will allow him to live. When the child died, David gets up, dresses, and worships.

If this is what you choose, I will stay with you. This is rational and good because you know about the goodness of God. His words are remaining in you: If God was good back then, I will believe he is good now.

#### John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask boldly
- Ask hopefully
  - **Goodness**
  - Power
- Ask humbly
  - Finite
  - **Follower**
- Ask in relationship
- Ask to ask better

#### John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask in relationship
    - **Identity**
    - Imitation
- Q&A:**  
What are some identities that God has given us, now that we are in Christ?

#### John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask in relationship
  - **Identity**
  - Imitation
- Priest
- Friend
- Representative
- Son/Daughter
- Bride
- Temple
- Fellow-worker
- Image

We pray with these identities in mind.

#### John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask in relationship
    - Identity
    - **Imitation**
- One of our most important identities

is that we are becoming like Christ.

This helps us imitate Jesus. What sort of person is Jesus? John 15:7 is how Jesus acts. What is the context?

#### What Christ Does

##### Mark 14:36

“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

This is not in conflict with John 15:7: they both form what it is like to be Jesus. Jesus plays many roles at Gethsemane.

#### What Christ Does

##### Matthew 27:46

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

1. He set the course for the cross: suffering for the sake of others. Suffering to a purpose for the sake of someone else is God’s heart.

2. He takes on the ID of a follower: he is in submission to the Father. He wishes there was a way around it.

3. He is obedient because the father told him

4. He felt abandoned yet he stays.

#### John 15:7 – 5 Principles

- Ask boldly
- Ask humbly
- Ask hopefully
- Ask in relationship
- **Ask to ask better**

We fail to do these things: We can ask to be this kind of person.

#### Asking Better

##### Mark 9:23-24

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

One of my favorite prayers in Scripture: Help my unbelief. Pray this often: I’m not what I ought to be. I’ve tried many strategies that didn’t work: The only things that have worked is God changing me and me cooperating. God makes us into the kind of person who asks.

#### Asking Better

##### Romans 8:26

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We **do not know** what we ought to **pray** for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through **wordless groans**.

If you follow Jesus, you have the Spirit and this verse is true about us. The Spirit comes alongside and prays what I would pray if I were who I was supposed to be.

#### Emily’s Story

(part 3)

After I pushed God away, Russ told me when I was pregnant if the baby were a girl, we would name her Rosie.

Review #4

I y r i m a m w r i y, a w y w, a i w b d f y.

Review the verse once more.

