

Scripture Reading: Luke 11:9-10

*"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."*

My dad was an extraordinary person, I won't tell you all the things he accomplished during his life but just a few that shaped his life and what rubbed off on me. He started college when he was 17. At 20, during college of his junior year, he enlisted into the Navy and became a dive bomber pilot and flew off aircraft carriers. He earned four air medals and the Navy Cross, the highest honor in the Navy, for sinking an aircraft carrier in Tokyo Bay.

In his way, Dad was a very devoted man although we did not go to church regularly because he worked on Sundays. Dad did other things to get me to God. He made me comfortable with prayer. I frequently drove to work with my dad during the summers and he always said a prayer out loud coming and going in the car. Maybe like he did when taking off and landing.

My dad taught me to be a positive thinker by asking for God's help and guidance. Dad shared that I alone was weak but with God's help, I could achieve all things through Christ. God gave us a system, a universe to be and create whatever life we want. You just need to ask, seek, and knock and God is there to open the door and show the way. Be grateful to God and know he wants to help, and he wants you to use him to answer our prayers.

Dad shared the book *The Power of Positive Thinking* by Norman Vincent Peale when I was 13 or 14. This book taught me how to channel my thinking and that God wants to help if only I would ask positively. I learned to say, "I am brave" not "I want to be brave." This statement shows I am already brave, and God will answer my prayers because God knows my heart. God is my friend; not this mean fellow trying to strike me down if I did something wrong. I thought this from listening to preachers, who shouted and tried to frighten me each Sunday.

When I was 20, I was safe in college, playing golf with no worries. I believe if I were flying off a carrier at 20 and diving on enemy locations, I would want God on my side. I can imagine praying to God for direction and asking him to keep me safe and my fellow airmen. I would seek guidance for making the right decisions hoping when I landed my plane on a moving deck, I hit the correct runway. I can only imagine.

You become what you think about good or bad. Thoughts are energy. They go out and seek positive energy or negative energy. This "God energy" comes back to you, so make sure you are asking, seeking, and knocking positively.

God created the universe and said we are God's children. Jesus said we could do all these things and more through him. I believe we are only starting to learn how to tap into these powers. People have created great things, we must use them for the good of man, not its destruction.

*Prayer:* Gracious God, with you all things are possible. We are your children, and you are our Father. We ask for your energy and to receive it with your will for a blessed life in your love.

-Submitted by Fred Collins for the Thirty-first Reading of Lent