

Welcome

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US!



Mt. 28:16-20

A NEW *Beginning*



LOOK TO THE CROSS FOR ETERNAL HOPE

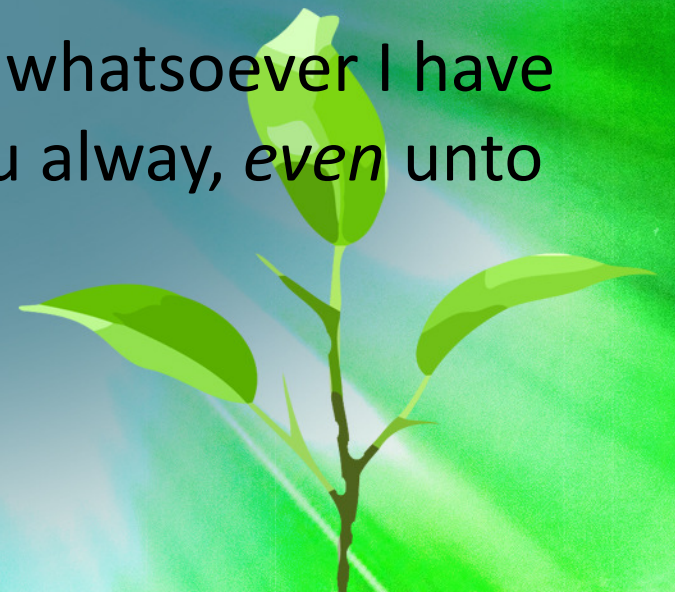
Mt. 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

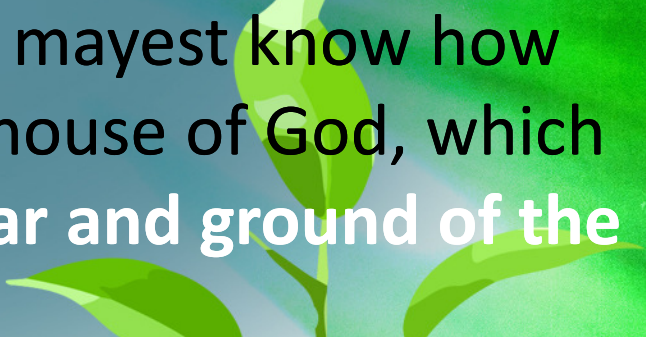
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.



The *Great Commission* (Mt. 28:16-20) contains the “marching orders” of Christianity, given by the Lord Jesus Christ, to evangelize the world, and the authority to do so was given to the first church. The methodology to carry out the *Commission* is found in *The Acts of the Apostles*- – men, called of God, planted more churches.

The great need and work of church planting

1 Tim. 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is **the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**



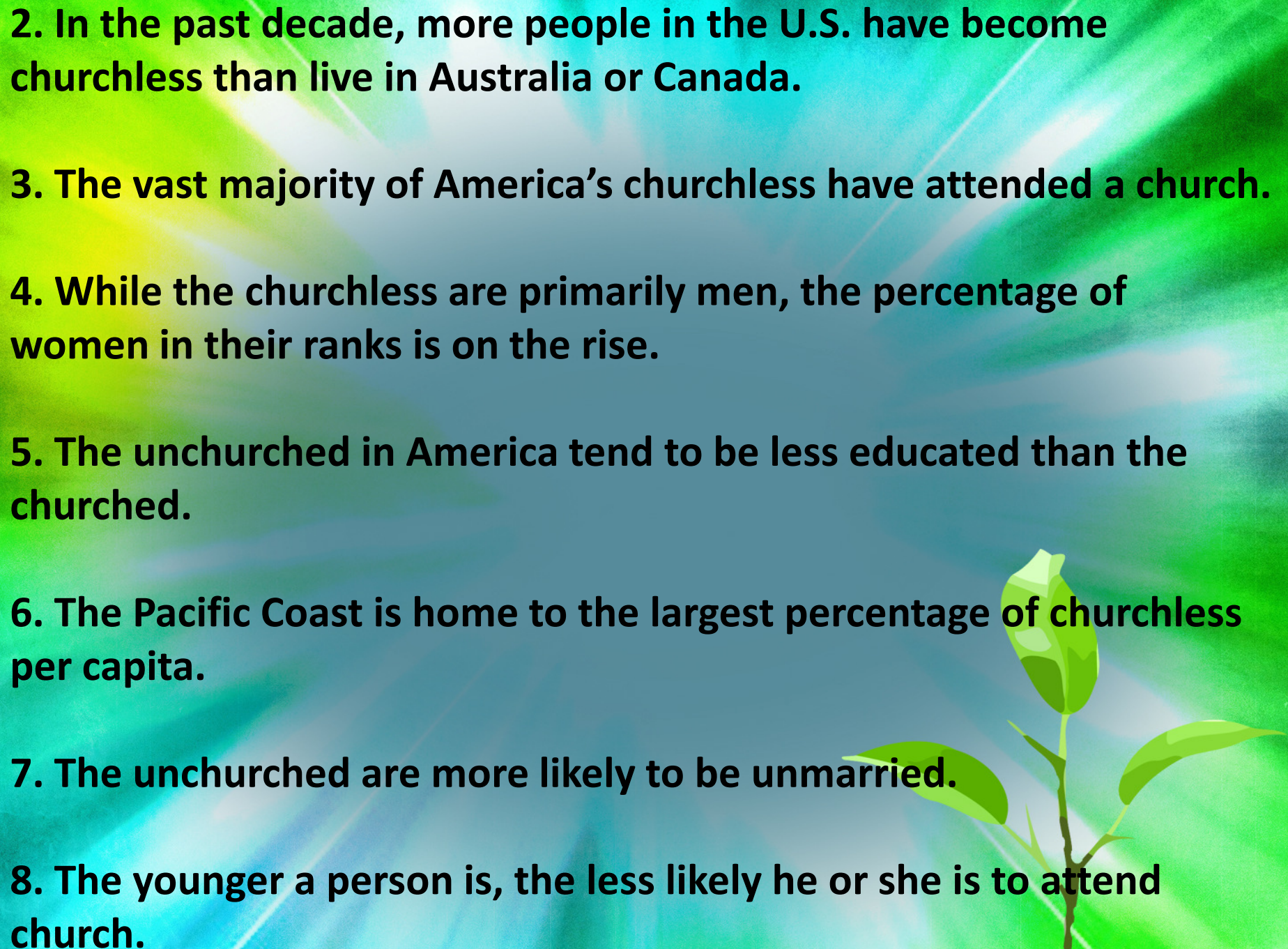
In 1820, there was one Christian church for every 875 U.S. residents. But from 1860-1906, U.S. Protestant churches planted one new church for increase of 350 in the population, bringing the ratio by the start of WWI to just 1 church for every 430 persons.

In 1906 over a third of all the congregations in the country were less than 25 years old. As a result, the percentage of the U.S. population involved in the life of the church rose steadily. [http://apostles-raleigh.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Why Plant Churches-Keller.pdf](http://apostles-raleigh.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Why_Plant_Churches-Keller.pdf) (See Lyle Schaller, *44 Questions for Church Planters* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1991), p.12.)

In 1920 there were 27 churches for every 10,000 Americans; by 1996, there were only 11 churches for every 10,000 Americans. And sadly, 3,000 to 4,000 churches are closing every year. <http://www.sbts.edu/resources/magazines/restoring-the-churchs-first-love-a-case-study-from-the-church-at-ephesus/>

1. The number of unchurched people in America would make the 8th most populous country in the world.

As of 2014, the estimated number of people in the U.S. who Barna Group would define as “churchless”—meaning they have not attended a Christian church service, other than a special event such as a wedding or a funeral, at any time during the past six months—stands at 114 million. Add to that the roughly 42 million children and teenagers who are unchurched and you have 156 million U.S. residents who are not engaged with a Christian church. To put that in context, if all those unchurched people were a separate nation, it would be the eighth most populous country in the world, trailing only China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the remaining churched public of the United States (159 million).

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- 2. In the past decade, more people in the U.S. have become churchless than live in Australia or Canada.**
 - 3. The vast majority of America's churchless have attended a church.**
 - 4. While the churchless are primarily men, the percentage of women in their ranks is on the rise.**
 - 5. The unchurched in America tend to be less educated than the churched.**
 - 6. The Pacific Coast is home to the largest percentage of churchless per capita.**
 - 7. The unchurched are more likely to be unmarried.**
 - 8. The younger a person is, the less likely he or she is to attend church.**

Among the church population...

- Millennials (born 1984-2002) make up 11%
- Gen X-ers (1965-1983) are 33%
- Boomers (1946-1964) make up 35%, and
- Elders (born in 1945 or earlier) make up 22%.

Among the unchurched, the percentages skew slightly younger:

- Millennials make up 15%
- Gen X-ers are 36%
- Boomers are 33% and
- Elders are only 16%.



9. Unchurched adults are more likely to be white.

- 70% of the unchurched in America are white
- 12% are Hispanic
- 10% are black
- 6% are Asian

10. The majority of the churchless in America claim Christianity as their faith.

When asked to identify their faith beliefs, 62% of unchurched adults consider themselves Christians.



Behind the Trends

“Unchurched adults are very much like churched adults ... except they don’t attend church,” says David Kinnaman, who served as a general editor alongside George Barna in the recent book *Churchless*, from which this data is taken.

“The fact remains, though, that more Americans than ever are not attending church,” Kinnaman continues.

<https://www.barna.org/barna-update/culture/698-10-facts-about-america-s-churchless#.VKhdCVqtx94>



Where to begin

To properly understand *church planting*, one must have a proper, Scriptural understanding of Ecclesiology. Simply put, the Lord Jesus Christ stated that He had authority (Mt. 28:18) and gave it to the first church to carry out the *Great Commission*. In Mt. 16:18, Christ Jesus stated that the first church was established by Him, upon Himself, and Col. 1:18 states that He has all the preeminence for it. In 1 Cor. 12:28, the Scriptures states the role of Apostles, (see Lu. 6:13 for the timing) as well as Eph. 2:20. Eph. 4:11-16 indicates the simple program and purpose of a church.

A simple summary for church planting – CHURCHES START CHURCHES. Every “baby church” needs to have a “mother church” to “give birth” in order to establish a “Scriptural church.” An unscriptural church would be illegitimate, crudely, but correctly called a “bastard church.” Such terminology may be offensive to those with weakened or no convictions and consequently, little desire to hold to doctrinal purity. A believer who wants to honor Christ and His commission, will want to do His work, His way, according to His Word, fulfilling His will.



PRAYER

Before the Lord Jesus officially began His first church, He spent the night before in prayer:

Lu. 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that **he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.**

13 And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; (see 1 Cor. 12:28)

1 Cor. 12:28 **“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles...”**

Not only did the Lord pray, but, He continued all night in prayer. Such intensity in prayer must be indicative of a monumental activity to follow. With the Lord Jesus as our example, we must also spend time in prayer before starting a new church. The greater the challenge, the greater the need for us to pray! Consider what Jesus told His disciples:

Mk. 9:29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. (Mt. 17:21)

Before starting the Apostle Paul's great missionary ministry, the church at Antioch fasted and prayed:

Acts 13:3 And **when they had fasted and prayed**, and laid *their* hands on them, **they sent *them* away.**

Acts 1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James *the son of Alphaeus*, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas *the brother of James*.

14 **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication,** with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 4:24 And when they heard that, **they lifted up their voice to God with one accord**, and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: ...

29 And now, **Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,**

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

31 **And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together;** and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but **prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.**

...

12 And when he had considered *the thing*, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; **where many were gathered together praying.**


Acts 16:16 And it came to pass, **as we went to prayer**, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

36 And when he had thus spoken, **he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.**

Acts 21:5 And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till *we were* out of the city: and **we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.**



Summary

- The *Great Commission* (Mt. 28:16-20) contains the “marching orders” of Christianity, given by the Lord Jesus Christ, to evangelize the world.
- The authority to do so was given to the first church.
- The methodology to carry out the *Commission* is found in *The Acts of the Apostles*- – men called of God planted more churches.
- **The church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**
- The need for more churches is very great!



- To properly understand *church planting*, one must have a proper, Scriptural understanding of Ecclesiology.
- Simply put, the Lord Jesus Christ stated that He had authority (Mt. 28:18) and gave it to the first church to carry out the *Great Commission*.
- In Mt. 16:18, Christ Jesus stated that the first church was established by Him, upon Himself, and Col. 1:18 states that He has all the preeminence for it.
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Conclusion

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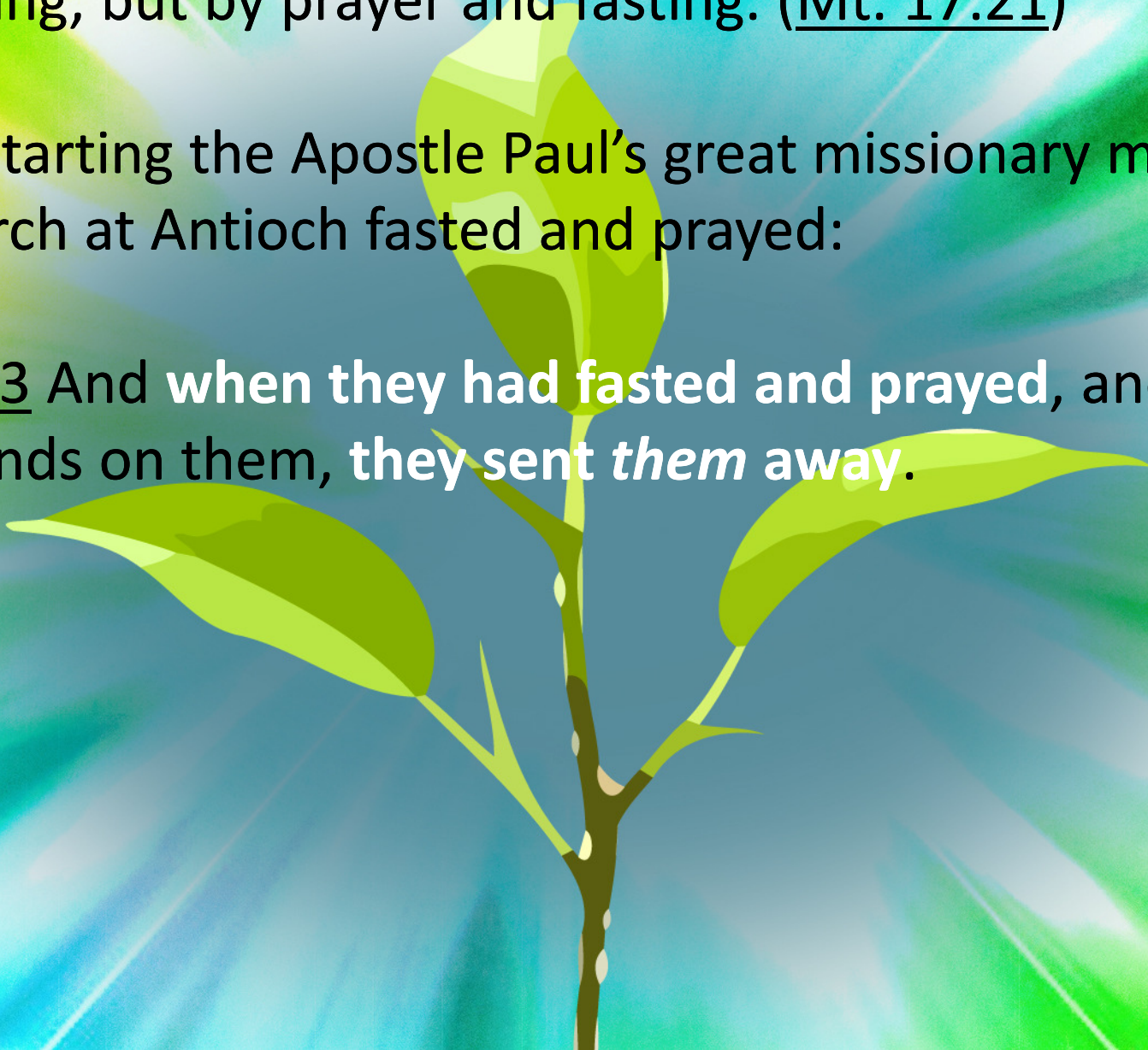
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The starting place for Mountain Springs in starting churches must begin with prayer!

COMMITMENT TO PRAY – A commitment to pray every day!

If the Lord Jesus prayed c. 12 hours, that is 720 minutes. If we can get 35 people to pray at least 3 min. per day, every day, that would be 735 minutes per week.

If we increase that to 35 x 5 min. per day = 1,225 minutes per week.

If we increase 35 to 10 min. per day = 2,450 minutes per week --- over 40 hours per week!

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Adoration
Confession
Thanksgiving
Supplication

Jas 4:3 Ye **ask**, and receive not, because ye **ask** amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

1 Jn. 3:22 And whatsoever we **ask**, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

1 Jn. 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we **ask** any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we **ask**, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Jn. 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall **ask** in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall **ask** any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

Jn. 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall **ask** what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Jn. 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall **ask** of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Eph. 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we **ask** or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Jer. 33:3 **Call unto me**, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.