

## “Did You Ask Your Father” (A Lesson On Prayer)

“Did you ask your father?” I would be a millionaire many times over if I had a dollar for every time that I heard this question while growing up. We were raised on a dairy farm and learned the value of hard work. We had to have dad’s approval before going anywhere, participating in school and 4-H events, sports, or making any major decisions. He did not say “yes” as much as my siblings and I may have liked, but he had his reasons.

God gave dad a special gift of discernment even years before he was finally saved. Dad worked hard to teach his children solid life principles and to give us life skills. He seemed to know when his kids or farm animals were in harm’s way. My siblings and I can give you endless accounts of dad’s special wisdom. In the few instances when we made life decisions without his approval things rarely turned out well. There is much to be said for a father’s blessing and wisdom.

As children we could not wait to grow up. Independence was our goal. We hated the idea of asking permission and being tied down with farming responsibilities. We thought being grown up would exonerate us from “asking our father.” We could not have been more wrong.

Now as a parent myself, I am always glad when my son discusses his concerns with me. There are areas of life where I have little knowledge, but there are areas where I have great wisdom. I can sometimes save him great hardship if he will just ask. Somehow I think that my earthly father and my Father in Heaven may feel the same way about me.

The millions of times we heard, “Did you ask your father?” were just preparing us for obedience in our Christian walks. Ironically our Heavenly Father wants us to consult with Him before we make any plans or decisions too. He wants to be involved in every aspect of our lives. Just like dad, He does not always say “yes” and He too has his reasons.

Today there is a plaque in my mom and dad’s kitchen which reads, “Have you prayed about it?” It is a reminder for us to pray about the daily questions, happenings, and stresses in life and to trust God to take care of the details. I guess that is sort of what Proverbs 3: 5-6 means when it says:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will direct your paths.”

What if everyone really did ask their Heavenly Father for direction? Would we parent differently? How would our marriages be different? What careers would we have? How would our business decisions be different? How would we vote? How would we handle the blessing of gas leases? Would we respond to crisis situations differently? How would we spend our money? Would ministries be different? Would more people be healed? Would we tithe? Would we have less stress? Would we treat others more kindly? How much failure and pain

would we have avoided? Would we make changes in our daily lives and in our negative selfish attitudes? What would change in our nation and in our communities? I can only imagine....

2 Chronicles 7:14 says “ If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” Wow!

A special day, May 6, 2010, has been set aside in our nation to celebrate the privilege we have of taking EVERYTHING to our Heavenly Father in prayer on a daily basis. I encourage you to visit the National Day of Prayer website at [www. nationaldayofprayer.com](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.com) to see what events are taking place in your community as we celebrate the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual National Day of Prayer.

Nahum 1:7 says “The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.”

I’m glad that I was taught at an early age to, “Go and ask my Father!” How about you?