

Matthew's Gospel

Chapter 7b

James 4:2-3

... You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.



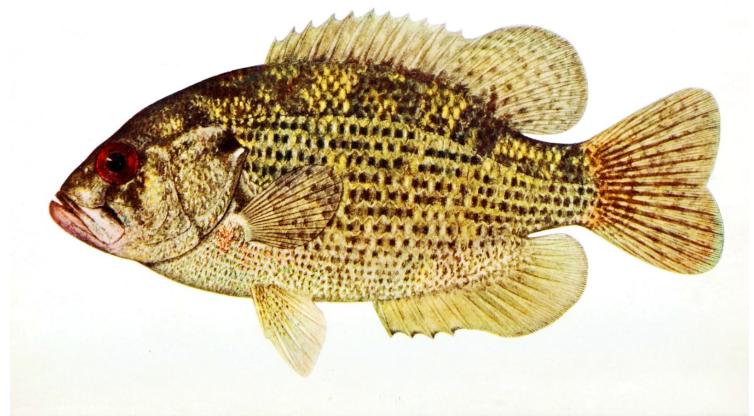
ROCK



BREAD



SNAKE



FISH

ASKING:

= I want something from God

Me ← God

We have to change our way of thinking. Why does Hashem bring problems? It's His way of saying to us, "I miss you. I'd like you to talk to Me a little bit. Open your heart to Me. Say something. Pray to Me! I am the One Who is giving you this problem!"

≈ R' Yaakov Hillel

A fundamental law of creation is that one is required to pray for everything in life; otherwise, he remains on the spiritual level of an animal, whose sustenance is provided without prayer.

≈ R' Shalom Arush

Part of prayer's supreme purpose is to recalibrate our desires.

❖ R' Shmuley Boteach

SEEKING:

= I can't see. I don't understand.



Genesis 25:22

And Isaac prayed to Adonai for his wife, because she was barren. And Adonai granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to seek of Adonai.

Most of my struggles in the Christian life circle around the same two themes: why God doesn't act the way I want God to, and why I don't act the way God wants me to. Prayer is the precise point where those two themes converge ... Prayer is the act of seeing reality from God's point of view.

❖ Phillip Yancey

Deuteronomy 4:29

But from there you will **seek** Adonai your God and you will find Him, if you **search** after Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who **seek** Him.

KNOCKING:

= I want to know God.

I want to be one with Him.

Me → God

The prayer preceding all prayers is “May it be the real I who speaks. May it be the real Thou that I speak to.”

❧ C.S. Lewis

Who one believes God to be is most accurately revealed not in any credo but in the way one speaks to God when no one else is listening.

❧ Nancy Mairs

The worshipper continues to recite the words of prayer, but it is no longer the worshipper who speaks them. Rather it is the Presence who speaks through the worshipper. In that prayerful return to the Source one has reached the highest human state, becoming naught but the passive instrument for the ever self-proclaiming praise of God.

❖ Arthur Green

Song of Solomon 5:2

I slept, but my heart was awake. A sound! My beloved is knocking. “Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one, for my head is wet with dew, my locks with the drops of the night.”

1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as he is.

Hitpallel
הִתְפַּלֵּל

Our Two Greatest Deficiencies:

▪ Prayer

Wherever I see deficiency, I see a lack of prayer.

❖ R' Natan of Breslev

▪ Gratitude

Revelation 7:12

Saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and **thanksgiving** and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself, and whatever you would not want to happen to you, do not do to another.”

❖ Didache 1:2