

Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

Seek Ye First Karen Lafferty

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See ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

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Acts 17:27-28a *“Starting from scratch, he made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him. He doesn’t play hide and seek with us. He’s not remote; he’s here. We live and move in him, can’t get away from him!”* The Message¹

Matthew 6:30-34 *“If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers – most of which are never even seen - don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God’s giving. People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.”* The Message¹

God created everything in our world, but not just in shades of gray. God created a beautiful world full of an infinite variety of colors, shapes, and sizes, a world to remind us of God’s constant presence, God’s enduring love and care.

Can you *“Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions”*? Describe how that feels to you. Does this help you see the kingdom of God? In what ways?

Why do you think the writer advised seeking God’s kingdom first? Does it make a difference if you seek it first, rather than after? In what ways? What affect does/could this have on the way you view the world, and your place in it?

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Matthew 7:7-11 “Keep on asking and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. You parents – if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.”
New Living Translation²

Matthew 6:6 “Here’s what I want you to do: Find a quiet secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his Grace.” The Message¹

Jesus tells us to “Keep on asking”. Do you think that’s for God’s benefit? Or ours? Why do you feel this way?

Do you think continually seeking, knocking, asking, helps us keep our focus on God? In what ways?

Do you trust that God will “give good gifts to those who ask him”? Why do you feel this way? How does this affect your relationship with God?

Why do you think Jesus tells us to “Find a quiet secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God”? Why is role-playing in front of God harmful to our relationship with God?

Can you “be there as simply and honestly as you can manage”? What does that look like in your life? How does that make you feel?

Offer any hesitations or fears you discover in this process to God. God is waiting for you to seek God, to ask for God’s grace, to knock so that God can open the door to a deeper and more meaningful relationship...

“Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord! How good you are! Your love for us continues on forever. Who can ever list the glorious miracles of God?”
Psalm 106:1-2a The Living Bible³

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