

**RADICAL**



## **Making the Most of Life**

Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13; John  
14:12-14

**Big Idea for the Series:** There's a subtle, creepy, sly enemy of *authentic* Christian living that sneaks into our life and wreaks havoc. If you've ever wondered if there's more to Christianity than you're experiencing, you're right. In *Radical*, we'll talk about what may be lacking and how to get it in your life.

**The Bottom Line for this message: Instead of asserting ourselves, we must crucify ourselves!**

### **Review:**

In the first week of *Radical* we asked a question: Is Jesus *really* worth abandoning everything for?

**Last week, we learned the primary reward of the Gospel is God Himself.**

### **Introduction:**

Self-reliance is certainly an important lesson to learn, isn't it?

Google tells us, "Self-Reliance is important for children. Learning to be self-reliant is important to be taught when a child is at a young age so it can develop as they grow older. Being self-reliant is presented to be the ability to take control over your life, being motivated from within, and being able to take care of oneself."

Have you learned the importance of being self-reliant?

### **Struggle:**

Then, we read our welcome verse this morning, "Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider **anything** as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God (2 Corinthians 3:5 NASB)."

Doesn't this directly contradict what we're taught by society?

Can you imagine the look of horror you'd get from a new parent if you instructed them to teach their children to be wholly dependent instead of self-reliant?

So, which is it? Self-reliance or God-reliance?

It's worse than this.

Not only has self-reliance infected our personal lives, but because we bring our personal lives into the church, self-reliance has also infected the church body.

**Truth:**

Our power is limited. God is all-powerful, almighty.

Job 36:22, “God’s power is unlimited. He needs no teachers (CEV).”

Our ability is finite. God is infinite.

1 Kings 8:27, “Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heavens cannot contain you (NKJV).”

We are limited to one place at a time. God is omnipresent.

Psalms 139:7-10, “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast (NIV84).”

Our knowledge has small boundaries. God is omniscient.

1 John 3:20, “God is greater than our hearts and knows all things (NIV84).”

How silly, then, is it to be self-reliant in our personal lives or our church?

But, does God *really* promise to help us?

When Jesus instructed his disciples on prayer, he said ...

Matthew 7:7-11 (NIV84), “<sup>7</sup>**Ask** and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will find; **knock** and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who **asks** receives; he who **seeks** finds; and to him who **knocks**, the door will be opened. <sup>9</sup>Which of you, if his son asks for **bread**, will give him a **stone**? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a **fish**, will give him a **snake**? <sup>11</sup>If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven **give good gifts** to those who ask him!”

In Luke, Jesus defines what the gifts are ...

Luke 11:9-13 (NIV84), “<sup>9</sup>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 to you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who **asks** receives; he who **seeks** finds; and to him who **knocks**, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a **fish**, will give him a **snake** instead? <sup>12</sup>Or if he asks for an **egg**, will give him a **scorpion**? <sup>13</sup>If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven **give the Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!”

***“It’s like asking God for money, and he doesn’t give us cash; instead, he gives us the bank.”***  
***-- David Platt***

To what extent does God answer? And ... why?

John 14:12-14 (NIV84), “<sup>12</sup>I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even **greater things** than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>And I will do whatever you ask in my name, **so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.** <sup>14</sup>You may ask me for **anything** in my name, and I will do it.”

**How utterly foolish is it to be self-reliant when we can be God-reliant?**

**Application:**

**Instead of asserting ourselves, we must crucify ourselves!**

**Next Steps:**

- Memorize Luke 11:9-13
- Consider Your Inadequacies
- Meditate on God’s Limitlessness
- Put Off Self-Reliance and Put On God-Reliance