

March 18, 2023

Ask

[Isaiah 7: 10-14](#)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights. But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test. "Then Isaiah said, "Hear now you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Have you ever asked God for a sign? Or, like Ahaz have you said "I will not put God to the test."

I have been in a period of mourning over the loss of my husband 16 months ago. You could never question my husband's love for Jesus or his heart for God; his faith never wavered. People told him for years that God was calling him to ministry, and, unlike Ahaz, he did ask for a sign but received sign after sign or confirmation to his calling into ministry.

I have asked God for a sign also as I struggle to know what God has for my life now.

I wondered why this scripture is read during Lent. Even more curious was the sign Isaiah gave Ahaz. "The Virgin will be with child and give birth to a son." It feels more like Advent than Lent.

We often tend to look at scriptures that are familiar and understandable but often find the ones we don't know that bring us insight.

God gave Ahaz a sign even though he didn't ask for one. He has given us all a sign -- a sign of hope, love, and peace. He gave us Jesus. As we go through this time of Lent and preparation, I challenge you to look into the scriptures that are not familiar to you and read those passages to see what sign God is giving you.

In my *Disciple Bible* this section of scripture is called Prayer Answered. Prayer is not a sinful lack of faith. Prayer is trusting communication which God welcomes. Being a Christian is not a religion; it is a relationship with Jesus.

Prayer: Dear Lord I pray as we travel through this season of Lent that we come closer to you. I pray for those who do not know you and for those that know you to have a closer relationship with you. Show us your sign in our lives. Amen

Lynn Frum, Tennerton UMC
Buckhannon, WV

Lay Member to Annual Conference, Certified Lay Servant,
Crosslines Board Chairperson, VP Ministry Spouses