People of Faith

As Christians, we say we are people of faith.  But how often do we act on that faith?  Even to the point of acting on our faith to get what we want?

Consider the account below from Mark 10:46-52:

**46**And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. **47**And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” **48**And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” **49**And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” **50**And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. **51**And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” **52**And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

In his book *Love Your Enemies:  How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt*, Arthur Brooks writes this about the passage above: “this story is profound because, while people do know what they really want, they don’t often ask for it.  Think about the last time you had a real conflict with someone you love.  You badly wanted the conflict to end and affection to return, but you kept fighting anyway.  I have a friend who didn’t talk to his daughter for twenty years and didn’t even know his grandchildren’s names.  He badly wanted to reconcile but couldn’t bring himself to do it.  Maybe you have never done anything this extreme, but at one time or another, we have all experienced the pain of  relational fracture that our pride prevents us from fixing.”

The point of these two excerpts is that Christianity is active, and we are to be active faith participants.  Consider the two verses below:

Matthew 21:22

And whatever you **ask** **in** prayer, you will receive, if you have **faith**.”

James 1:6

But let him **ask** **in** **faith**, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

For discussion, think about concrete examples of times when you have been or needed to be more active in your faith.  Of asking God for help,  Discuss the following questions:

(1)       If you have been timid in faith, why?

(2)       What are some examples of things you have wanted but have failed to ask for?

(3)       How do you think your spiritual life would be different if you asked in faith?