

## Making Requests to God

**James 4:3** Ye **ask**, and receive not, because ye **ask amiss**, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

1. Have you ever wondered whether your prayers requests or petitions to the Lord are ever heard, and if they would in fact ever be answered?

We often say that we live in a very stressful era, and that it feels as if no one is listening to us or that we continually and constantly are being bombarded with complications in our lives. We therefore take it upon ourselves to sort matters out. It is what we would call stress by any means.

Society has grown more intolerant to the needy and even the hospitals and doctors have shown signs of disinterest unless you can pay your way.

2. Today it seems that life is all about how much money you have or don't have.
  - Compassion seems to be way down on the agenda of most people.
3. There is an ever increasing uncaring spirit present that seems to be dominating our lives these days. Even family get-togethers or showing an interest in each other seems to be getting less and less.

Communication with our families seems to be breaking down even with the best communication devices that man has ever been able to lay his eyes ears or hands on. The social media has in a way distant us from each other.

4. So what or who can we blame for this cause?
5. Well the answer is simple, in that we should blame ourselves, because we are part of it.
  1. It has often been said that unless we can accept the blame and responsibility nothing can change.

That is true because the bible supports that statement. Unless we can see ourselves as sinners not being capable of doing things right by ourselves we will always fail, and fall into these traps of life.

## Romans 3:23-26

<sup>23</sup> For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

<sup>24</sup> Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

<sup>25</sup> Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

<sup>26</sup> To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

2. People fill their lives of that meaninglessness because they have nothing else to fill it with.
  3. Material things become important to them, and acquiring them takes great effort on their part, only to find out that when they have filled that void there is another one waiting for them to fill it again.
  4. So is life, a cascade of never ending filling of empty spaces which in the end amount to nothing.
1. Here in lies the difficulty in that it may take us a lifelong lesson to find that out? and to see how true that statement is?
  2. Yet others may not even find answers to their emptiness.
- ❖ **So how do we change all that, and make our life meaning full?**
  - ❖ The answer in itself is simple but the carrying out of it may be very difficult.

### Firstly?

1. Understanding that we have a problem is the first step to being healed of the problems in our lives.
2. The first problem is that of sin in our lives, and understanding that we need to have a savior to whom we can turn to ask for forgiveness.
3. That savior is and can only be Jesus Christ our Lord, for there is none other.

### 1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

To understand that we need a savior is not sufficient in itself if we don't then turn to him for forgiveness and for all our needs.

This can only be realized and accomplished if there is firstly a true conversion and repentance that has taken place in your life.

Simply asking with no repentance is like asking a plumber to come and fix your broken pipes in your house. It becomes an external statement and nothing more than that.

- The bible is very specific about asking the Lord for things.

### **James 4:3**

Ye **ask**, and receive not, because ye **ask amiss**, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

5. Going back to what we said earlier, "why are our prayers not answered", or why do they seem to not be answered.
1. Well here in the book of James 4:3 we have the answer from our Lord. "Because ye **ask amiss**".
2. The reason why we ask amiss is simple. It is for a lack of understanding of the Lord.

### What do I mean by that?

3. Simply put we ask the Lord our God for "things" whatever they might be, or for Him to help us, yet we do the very opposite to please Him.
4. We ask for things when we ourselves don't really believe in putting the Lord first in our lives. Yes we may all say it, but no we don't do it. It's that simple. So why should the Lord help us?
5. For if we truly knew the Lord our God, we would want to ask for things according to His will?

**Well what does our Lord mean by that?** According to His will. His will is His stated word to us.

1. The Lord says we ask amiss?
2. That is because we are asking, or normally that is; we are asking for things that benefit us, and our life here, with no real thought of whether it benefits our Lord God or not?
3. We are generally asking for things to make our life more pleasurable and more easy! But that's not God's will. Yes He can do that if He so wills or wants. But is our request that we made known to God according to His will?

4. To answer that question each of us has to dig deep within ourselves to see whether we are in God's will?
5. We will need to look at our personal walk with the Lord, and look to see if we are in a place to ask for the things we do ask for.

### **Secondly.**

1. If we have no idea of where we place the Lord in our lives then perhaps we should ask the Lord Himself to show us.
2. To ask the Lord to show us "how we can know His will?"
3. Being in God's will is to commune with Him in His word daily asking for guidance and deliverance of "things" that plague our hinder our communicating with Him.
4. The desires of our heart should be for the Lord and not for material things. Because the Lord supplies all our needs anyway when we are focused in Him.

### **The good news about our Lord is that he wants us to ask Him for help.**

- Again in scripture we see His hand upon us in asking.

#### **1 John 5:14**

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

- ✓ But he also wants us to ask in a way that he can see that our heart is sincere in serving Him.
- Remember how the Lord when he spoke to his disciples he said that they must take nothing for themselves on the journey because he would provide for them. This is a very common theme that we see throughout the entire bible. (Mark 6:7-9).

#### **Mark 6:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

<sup>8</sup> And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

<sup>9</sup> But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

1. As we go through life, our thoughts and desires should be for the Lord and His kingdom. It should be "how can we help others",

showing love and compassion for them, and then caring for them with the Gospel message like Jesus did.

2. Our duty is after all not to convert anyone because that is the work of the Holy Spirit, but we are to share the Gospel good news.
  3. Just like the disciples they were ordered to travel light and God would supply their needs.
- ✓ If we amass a great deal of material things in our life, our goal and focus will shift to maintaining those things and very little attention will be given to the things of the Lord.
  - To care enough about people is to show the Love of our Lord and to put into perspective the need for prayer and to ask God for the things that will help his Name being spread among nations.
  - Helping others is about giving of yourself.

### **Luke 11:11**

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

### **James 2:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

<sup>16</sup> And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

<sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

<sup>18</sup> Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

<sup>19</sup> Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

<sup>20</sup> But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

### **Firstly, as I thought about this passage of scripture in Philippians, on making your requests known unto to God.**

I could not help but first think about the following questions?

1. How can we make our requests known unto God if we are not living the life style he has called us to live?
2. How is it possible for us to make requests when God's request to us is going un fulfilled?

We are always quick to ask others to do things for us, but when we are asked we generally ignore those requests.

So with that in mind, and having made a point about paying tribute to what God asks of us, what is next?

- Where do we begin?

**Well the best place to begin is to start with the Word of the Lord.**

### [Philippians 4:6-9](#)

¶Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication (*plea*) with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

¶And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

¶Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

¶Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

**We all want peace ...Right?....**

1. You know in the O.T. a lot of the time you read about the prophets saying, or the scripture refers to the **"the word of the Lord" came to him saying....."**
2. Well I think thats what the bible is trying to teach us here is pretty similar to that in the O.T., where as now we have Holy Spirit nudging us saying the Word of the Lord instructs you to do according to Gods Will to obey Him.
3. You see the Word of God here is to be placed in our minds on our foreheads, and in our hearts. Deuteronomy 6:6-9
4. It is supposed to be with us wherever we go.

## Deut 6:6-9

¶And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

⁂And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

⁂And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

⁂And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

- So when we hear the word of the Lord it is the Spirit of God nudging us.....giving us the conviction from God.
- But what do we do?

You see the scripture here in Philippians where Paul is talking to the church at Philippi, the Philippian church. He wants them to see what is waiting for them, but there are those things which they need to heed first. That is.....as follows.

1. Getting right with the LORD. (Believing in the Lord Jesus for salvation).
  2. Don't grieve the Holy Spirit.
  3. Don't miss the blessings which are yours.
- Let's examine the scripture again for a moment.....

## Philippians 4:6-9

**¶Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

1. Incidentally, this verse is why we pray before we eat. We are told to give thanks. We are to let God know we are thankful for what he gives us.
2. There is nothing we cannot ask for, that the Lord won't hear us, **we just need to ask it according to His will.**
3. Supplication is a prayer request to the Lord.
4. With thanksgiving. We need to be thankful.
5. Everything we do needs to be brought before the Lord.

7And **the peace of God**, which **passeth all understanding**, shall **keep your hearts and minds** through Christ Jesus.

➤ And so when we do that what happens?

1. We have the peace of God upon us.
2. We have Gods peace resting on us.
3. We have Gods understanding, with us.
4. We have Gods peace in our hearts and minds.
5. It's the peace of knowing that Jesus Christ is interceding for us to God the Father.

8**Finally, brethren,**

1. whatsoever **things are true**,
2. whatsoever **things are honest**,
3. whatsoever **things are just**,
4. whatsoever **things are pure**,
5. whatsoever **things are lovely**,
6. whatsoever **things are of good report**;

if there be **any virtue**, and if there be **any praise**,

**think on these things.**

- ✓ This is how we will receive that peace.
- ✓ By looking at the things of the Lord.
- ✓ The list above is our final short list of having our requests filled, and having the peace and joy which only Jesus can give.

9**Those things,**

1. **which ye have both learned**,
2. and **received**,
3. and **heard**,
4. and **seen in me**,
5. do: and the **God of peace shall be with you.**

- ✓ You see, its not just enough that we learn all this stuff, and acknowledge it.
- We must DO IT.
- If we DON'T DO IT. God's peace will not be with us.
- If not, we will still be wondering about aimlessly, trying to find something to fill the void in our lives, and even if we call our self Christians, there will still be some emptiness filled by the world, if we don't apply the scriptures.



- ✓ The comfort of the scriptures as we see below in Romans tells us how we are justified.

**Romans 5:1**

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Romans 16:20**

And the **God of peace** shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

**Let us not walk like the world.**

**Philippians 3:18-19**

<sup>18</sup>(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

<sup>19</sup>Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

PRAY EARNESTLY....