

The Wisdom of Praying for God's Help

“You do not have, because you do not ask God” (James 4:2).

- I. **Asking for things from God is wise. It is part of the amazing journey we take with God as believers in Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:7-11).**
 - A. “You do not have, because you do not ask God.” is a statement that James makes about unbelievers or new believers who ask with the wrong motives or do not ask God for anything at all (James 4:2-3).
 - B. God often takes us on prayer journeys through the problems of life, teaching us His ways and building our faith to believe for greater and greater promises from the Word of God.

- II. **The wisdom of asking includes praying with “shameless audacity” (Luke 11:1-13).**
 - A. **“THE GOOD”** (E.g., Abraham—Genesis 18:16-33; Jabez—I Chronicles 4:9-10; All Disciples—John 14:12-14; Cornelius and Peter—Acts 10:1-21)
 - B. **“THE BAD”** (E.g., Ninevites—Jonah 3:6-10; Ahab—I Kings 21:17-29; Tax Collector and the Pharisee—Luke 18:9-14; The Criminal Crucified with Jesus—Luke 23:35-43)
 - C. **“THE UGLY”** (E.g., The Syrophenician Woman—Mark 7:24-30; Blind Bartimaeus—Mark 10:46-52; The Woman with the Issue of Blood—Mark 5:24-34)

- III. **What do we do when we ask but don't seem to get an answer?**
 - A. We never stop asking (Luke 11:9-11).
 - B. We never stop standing in our identity as beloved sons and daughters (E.g., Hezekiah—II Kings 20:1-6).
 - C. We don't fabricate answers. We watch for signs of breakthrough and respond in faith (E.g., Elijah—I Kings 18:41-46).
 - D. There are no wrong answers from God—only things that have yet to be fully realized or explained (E.g., David and Solomon—II Samuel 12:21-25) “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

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