

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

If we're asking God for something, and not receiving it, perhaps a little self-examination is in order. Is it God's favor I seek or just His provision? Do I need it or do I just want it? Is it something I can do without? What is motivating me to ask? Am I asking for something that God clearly forbids? Is it part of what I need TODAY? Will it help another? Is it for another? Is it God's will for the other person's life? Am I content with what I already have or am I being covetous? "*Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*" Is God a liar? Many times we pray for God's healing, but fail to realize that God has allowed illness to come into our lives to test us, strengthen our faith, and encourage others. Many times we don't get better, because we just fail to ask for healing. Instead, we try to self medicate or tuff it out. Often we bring illness on ourselves by unsanitary practices or perhaps eating the wrong things, or too much of the right thing. Not getting the proper amount of sleep will increase your stress and lower your immune response. Worry is one of the sources of stress. Worry is unbelief! Fretting about anything is in strict disobedience to God's Word. "*Be careful for nothing.*" Satan whispers "what-ifs" all day long. If there's absolutely nothing you can do about something, take it to the Lord in prayer and leave it there. To do otherwise is direct disobedience! If you still worry about it, you didn't leave it! Worry means you don't really trust God! It is unbelief in its purest form. We want everything right now, but as C. H. Spurgeon said, "*God never is before His time, and never is behind.*" Be cautious of your own motives and time-table when you approach the Throne of Grace. Be sure it's a bona-fide need, and then do not hesitate to present it along with thanksgiving for past blessings. We must ever remain thankful for the blessings that are showered upon us before we ask. "*Contentment with Godliness is great gain. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness, because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, NEITHER WERE THANKFUL.*" Unthankfulness is the attitude of a wicked heart!

We oft times pray and ask awry,  
And then we fret and wonder why,  
If we would plead for just our need,  
We'd find our lives most blest indeed. ~CGP

Staying close to God will gender proper requests in our hearts. God delights to shower gifts upon His children as long as their requests are not born out of greed and self-indulgence. "*Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain Mercy, and find Grace to help in time of need. God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. IN EVERY THING by prayer and supplication WITH THANKSGIVING let your requests be made known unto God.*" The Throne of Grace is always open to the truly needy!

*"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" Luke 11:13 KJV*

