

Claiming God's Promises: How To Do It

James 1:5-8

Introduction

1. **James 1:5** teaches us that we must be **specific** in our requests to God
 - a. If wisdom is what we need then we must ask for that specifically.
 - b. A good illustration for this is found in **Mark 10:46-52**. In verse **51** Jesus asks the blind Bartimeaus, "*What do you want me to do for you?*" (Amplified Bible). Jesus could obviously see the need that the man had (healing of blindness) but he still expected Bartimeaus to specify his need.
 - c. **James 1:5** promises that "*it shall be given.*" (It will be important to remember this promise when we look at verse 7)
 - d. This principle is taught by Jesus Himself in **Matthew 7:7-11**. God promises to answer our specific requests. Do not accept substitutes from the devil.

2. **James 1:6** says that we must ask this in faith. What is meant by this?
 - a. **Mark 11:22-24** tells us exactly how we are to operate in faith. In verse 23 we are once agin encouraged to be specific. We are to speak to specific mountains, or problems that we are dealing with.
 - b. Notice especially the word "**receive**" in verse 24. Greek word lambano (Strong's #2983) which denotes "To Take" (Vine's). Vines goes on to say that lambano suggests a "self-prompted taking."
 - c. Strong's says that this word means "to get ahold of" which is different from another Greek word translated receive in the New Testament (dechomai – Strong's#1209) which means "to have offered to one."
 - d. This shows a "decision" on the part of the recipient to take the answer to prayer (see Matt. 10:38 which talks about "TAKING" up our cross and following Jesus. This is a decision. Same Greek word "lambano" is used).
 - e. **The Power New Testament** translates Mark 11:24 this way: "*Because of this I say to you, you must continually pray for everything, then for whatever you are asking, **believe that you will take it, and it will be there for you.***" (The Power New Testament is a translation by William J. Morford, president of Shalome Ministries, Inc.)

3. **James 1:7** - The same greek word "lambano" is being used here.
 - a. A.B. Simpson says, "God always gives. But the unbelieving heart cannot receive. It is fettered and paralyzed by doubts, and like the sensitive plant shrinks helplessly, and misses the blessing that His love would gladly have bestowed." (The Christ In The Bible Commentary (Vol. 6))
 - b. Remember in verse 5 God promised that if we asked for wisdom that it WILL be given to us. This was a solid promise.
 - b. The reason why the one tossed to and fro cannot receive from God has nothing to do with whether God would give it to him or not. It has everything to do with the person. The person will not "receive" or "take" or "get ahold" of the answer that God has

promised to give in answer to prayer.

4. **James 1:8** tells us that the reason that the wavering person cannot receive (or take) from God is due to their own indecisiveness.

a. Doubleminded. Lawrence O. Richards say, "The Greek has dipsychos, "double-souled." He's the man on the fence, tilting first one way ("I will") and then another ("I won't").

I. Name It and Claim It

1. Two Key phrases from our study thus far:

a. We must be **specific** in our requests to God. In other words we must "name it."

b. We must **take** the answer from God by faith.

c. Contrasts Jesus words "*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*" (Luke 12:32) and His other words "*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*" (Matt. 11:12). It is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom but there is a warfare involved. We must take the kingdom.

c. This is the true meaning of "name it and claim it" which is a very highly criticized teaching. Yet, we find that it is in line with the Scriptures.

d. We can only name and claim anything in line with God's Word and His promises. When we have prayed in line with the will of God (His Word reveals His will to us) then we can have the confidence that our prayer has been answered and this confidence takes or claims the answer from God (1 John 5:14-15).

2. God's will is revealed in His names.

a. Some of the names of our covenant God:

Jehovah Nissi – The Lord my Banner

Jehovah Jireh – The Lord my provider

Jehovah Shalom – The Lord my peace

Jehovah Tsidkenu – The Lord our righteousness

Jehovah Rophe – The Lord our Healer

Jehovah Rohi – The Lord our Shepherd

Jehovah Nakah – The Lord will guide thee

b. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all of those names (John 6:58).

c. By being specific and naming what we need according to the revelation in these names God has covenanted Himself to fulfill His covenant.

II. Claiming God's Promises

1. **2 Pet. 1:3-4**

a. This promises are our's. They have been given to us.

b. Promise – a legally binding declaration that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect or **claim** the performance or forbearance of a specified act (Webster's).

c. Though these promises have been given to us most people are not experiencing them. We must learn to claim them, or rather take possession of them.

d. Heb. 6:12

e. Inherit (Strong's #2816) – kleronomeo which strictly means "to receive by lot" (kleros, "a lot," nemomai, "to possess"); then in a more general sense, "to possess oneself of, to receive as one's own, to obtain."

f. *"We do not want any of you to grow slack, but to follow the example of those who through sheer patient faith came to **possess** the promises."* The New Testament in Modern English by J.B. Phillips.

2. Illustration found in Joshua and the Israelites – Joshua 1:2-3; 11-15

a. To possess means to dominate or take control of.