

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

LET HIM ASK IN FAITH

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART FOUR OF SIXTY FOUR*

In the sermon on the mount Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you" (Matthew 7:7). James echoes this by saying, "But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God...and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). Then he adds, "But let him ask in faith" (James 1:6). To assure us that we can ask and receive, we are told that God gives "liberally and upbraideth not." There is a way to give that humiliates the receiver, but God does not use it. As we receive from God we are made to love, not to hate Him.

The prayer of the Christian should be more than just asking. It must be an asking in faith. It must be an expression of faith without doubting, wavering, or debating; trusting that God is ready and willing to grant our petitions. The degree we waver and doubt is a measurement of our faith. The stronger our faith, the less our doubt. "The great mischief is that there is so little meaning in our prayers, so little faith, so little singleness of heart and passionate earnestness..." (Brown).

It is true that many of the promises of God seem hard to believe, but we must not waver through unbelief (Romans 4:20). If prayer is to continue in our lives, we must believe God hears it. Could it be that many do not pray because in their hearts they do not really believe that God answers prayer? Then when trouble strikes, they attempt prayer as a "last resort". We cannot approach prayer with the idea of experimentation. We must ask believing that "every one that asketh receiveth" (Matthew 7:8). (B. G. Echols)

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