

It's because you did not ask

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James 4:2 (NCV) *You want things, but you do not have them. So you are ready to kill and are jealous of other people, but you still cannot get what you want. So you argue and fight. **You do not get what you want, because you do not ask God.***

(NKJV) ... *you do not have because you do not ask.*

- James challenged those to whom he addressed his letter
- It seems that, when they had a need, prayer & asking God was their last option instead of their first option
- James said: You simply don't have, because you didn't ask

John 16:24 (NKJV) *Until now you have asked nothing in My name. **Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.***

- Many things in life that we need are only a prayer away
- God delights in answering our prayers when we ask Him in faith
- He is our heavenly Father – we are His children

Matthew 7:7–11 (NKJV) ***Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!***

- This Scripture again affirms God's willingness to answer our prayers
- God is interested in, and cares about the minutest details of our lives

Psalms 2:8 (NKJV) ***Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.***

Zechariah 10:1 (NKJV) ***Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain. The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone.***

- We are now in the time of the latter rain of the Holy Spirit (Hosea 6:3)

- We ask God for the latter rain of His Spirit, and we ask God for the nations of lost souls to be saved

Broadening out the definition & practice of asking

- Ask for things whatever things you ask when you pray (Mk 11:24)
- Ask for wisdom if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God (Jm 1:5)
- Ask for revelation, strength, knowledge, guidance & direction, etc.
- Ask questions of one another
- At times we ask God for wisdom or direction, and God chooses to speak to us through another believer – if we ask the right questions
- Other believers have knowledge that we don't have – and the right question will draw that knowledge out

Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV) *Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but **in the multitude of counselors there is safety.***

- Joining a small group during our 40 Day Campaign is one of the wisest moves you can make
- You will join with other believers who have knowledge that you don't have
- Conversely, you have knowledge that they do not have

Proverbs 18:1 (NKJV) *A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; **He rages against all wise judgment.***

- Christianity is not lived out in isolation - it is lived out in community & fellowship with other believers

Proverbs 1:5 (GW) ***A wise person will listen and continue to learn, and an understanding person will gain direction.***

- A wise person asks questions & will listen to others for continued learning
- Sometimes, the wisest thing we can do is ask questions
- It is sometimes assumed that only ignorant people or fools ask for advice or for wisdom
- Not so – a fool is not interested in advice or wisdom from anyone
- Only wise people want to continue to learn

Proverbs 17:16 (NKJV) *Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, since **he has no heart for it?***

Proverbs 18:2 (NKJV) *A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart.*

Proverbs 23:9 (NKJV) *Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for **he will despise the wisdom of your words.***

Sometimes people do not ask questions of others, because they do not want to appear silly or ignorant.

- Again, asking questions is one of the wisest thing we can do
- When we ask questions, we demonstrate that we are teachable & that we don't know everything
- We learn, among other ways, by asking questions
- We occupy a place of humility when we ask others for advise or for understanding
- Certain things are not told unless someone asks

One of the greatest signs of a young Christian's health is - lots of questions.

- Questions demonstrate:
 - a hunger for spiritual truth
 - a hunger for learning about God and His plan for our lives
 - a hunger to learn about, and function in God's kingdom

People who have stopped asking questions have grown old:

- Not necessarily old in years, but old in attitude
- Anyone who says: "I have no more questions" has come to the end of their learning journey

Proverbs 2:1–3 (NCV) *My child, listen to what I say and remember what I command you. **2 Listen carefully to wisdom; set your mind on understanding. 3 Cry out for wisdom, and beg for understanding.***

- Wisdom is in God's written Word
- Wisdom is in the house

1 Chronicles 12:32–33 (NASB95) *Of the **sons of Issachar**, men who **understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do**, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command.*

- We have sons of Issachar in our midst who understand the times
- Don't always accept things on face value of what you see & hear around you
- Ask questions