

**ASK GOD**  
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James 1:5-8, 4:1-4

1. Paul wrote, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:18 **This is a command.**
2. Peter proclaimed on the Day of Pentecost, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the **promise** is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself." Acts 2:38-39  
NOTE: When we give ourselves to God He gives Himself to us in the person of the Holy Spirit.
3. God's **commands** are to be obeyed and His **promises** claimed.
4. Let's look at our Scripture passages to see how we can **obey** God's command and **claim** His promise concerning the Holy Spirit.

**I. Ask. "You do not have because you do not ask." James 4:2**

- A. We often have a problem in this area.  
Our needs and desires are often not met because we find it difficult to express them.
- B. Luke 11:9-13  
9 "And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. 10 "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened. 11 "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? 12 "Or {if} he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? 13 "**If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall {your} heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"**
  1. Not a whim or fleeting desire.
  2. A deep and genuine desire to see God's will and God's work accomplished in and through our lives.
- C. Since God has commanded us to be filled with the Holy Spirit and promised the Holy Spirit to all He calls to Himself we can pray with confidence. I Jn 5:14-15  
14 And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us {in} whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

**II. Ask in faith. James 1:5-8**

- A. Notice that James states, "And if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God (for wisdom).
- B. You and I can insert anything we lack in place of the word wisdom.
- C. For instance we could say, "And if any of you lacks the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit in your life, let him ask God."
- D. We are to "ask in faith without any doubting."

E. We are to “ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

1. Our lack of faith and confidence in God is an insult to His love and character.
2. We saw in Luke 11:11-13 that we are to look to God with the confidence and expectation of a child.
  - a. We had quite a few children in the church I pastored in Massachusetts and one of them was, at the time, a toddler named Sarah.
  - b. One Sunday Sarah toddled up to me and held up her arms to say, “Pick me up.”
  - c. She reached up “without any doubting” confident that I would pick her up.
  - d. If Sarah could reach up to me, a mere man with complete confidence and trust, can’t we reach up to God with even greater confidence and trust?

F. Faith:

1. Includes the element of humility and the knowledge that we are powerless and helpless apart from God and His gracious provision.

Andrew Murray wrote, “Absolute dependence upon God is the secret of all power in work.”
2. Rests in God because genuine faith involves absolute trust in Almighty God.

### **III. Ask for the right reason.**

- A. “You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives.”
- B. Jesus said, “And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” John 14:13
- C. In teaching His disciples how to pray Jesus said, “Pray then, in this way: Our Father who art in heaven hallowed (glorified) be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth (and in and through my life) as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:9-10
- D. Many want God to be glorified through their lives because in the process they too will receive glory and recognition.
- D. Ask God to fill you with His Spirit for His glory and for the advancement of His kingdom.

### **APPLICATION**

1. We have talked a lot about the Holy Spirit over the last few weeks.
  - a. The Holy Spirit in the life and ministry of Jesus.
  - b. What Jesus taught about the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
  - c. The Holy Spirit and the early church.
  - d. Actions detrimental to the work of the Holy Spirit.
  - e. The characteristics of a Spiritual Christian.
  - f. Our need to obey God’s command and claim His promise.
2. Are you:
  - a. Asking God that the ministry of the Holy Spirit might be fully performed in and through your life?
  - b. Asking in faith?
  - c. Asking for the right reason?
3. May God fill us all with His Spirit!