

3 Principles that Relate to God's Gifts (James 1:17)

Introduction:

1. This morning we showed from Ephesians 1:3 that God has blessed His children with "*all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*"
2. We examined 5 spiritual blessings, including instruction, direction, assistance when we face obstacles, comfort in times of sorrow, and assurance that all things work together for good.
3. According to James 1:17, God is the giver of every good and perfect gift.
4. In our lesson we are examining "3 principles that relate to God's gifts."

Discussion:

- I. WE LEARN FROM ROMANS 8:32 THAT GOD'S GIFT OF HIS SON ASSURES US THAT HE WILL GIVE HIS CHILDREN ALL THINGS
 - A. This verse shows how God did not spare His own Son from dying on our behalf.
 - B. We understand from many passages that God sent Jesus to shed His blood because of His great love for us (John 3:16; Romans 5:6-8).
 - C. The same love that led God to send Jesus to die for us also leads Him to freely give all things to His children.
- II. IN MATTHEW 21:22 JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE ALL THINGS THEY ASKED FOR THROUGH PRAYER
 - A. This is interesting because Paul asked the Lord to remove his thorn in the flesh, but the Lord did not grant his request (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).
 - B. To avoid misunderstanding the Lord's statement, we must keep in mind that there are certain conditions that relate to prayer.
 1. We must pray believing (Matthew 21:22).
 2. We must ask in Jesus' name (John 16:23).
 3. We must not pray with selfish motives (James 4:3).
 4. We must be obedient to God (1 John 3:22).
 5. We must ask according to God's will (1 John 5:14-15).
 - C. As we ask God for His blessings or when we ask Him to do something, let us comply with these conditions for acceptable prayer.
- III. IN MATTHEW 7:7-11 JESUS STATED THAT GOD PROVIDES GOOD THINGS TO HIS CHILDREN WHO ASK, SEEK, AND KNOCK
 - A. In making requests of God we are responsible for:
 1. "asking" [making a request of someone greater -- Philippians 4:6]
 2. "seeking" [looking or searching for something with the intention of finding it -- Matthew 13:45-46]
 3. "knocking" [persistently trying to gain an entrance -- Acts 12:16].
 - B. If we ask, seek, and knock, Jesus said that God will give us what we ask, He will cause us to find what we seek, and He will open to us.
 - C. Jesus emphasized God's response to the requests of His children in vs.8.
 - D. (vs.9-11) Jesus illustrated His point.
 1. (vs.9-10) He first asked 2 questions based on the father-son relationship.
 - a. (vs.9) A man who loves his son will not give him a stone if he asks for bread.
 - b. (vs.10) A man who loves his son will not give him a snake if he asks for a fish.
 2. (vs.11) Jesus used this reasoning to show that God will give good things to His children who make requests of Him.

Conclusion:

1. In our lessons we have shown how God:
 - a. has blessed His people with all spiritual blessings
 - b. gives every good and perfect gift to His children.
2. Let us adopt the statements made by David in Psalm 145:1-3.