

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

Introduction:

1. According to James 1:17, God is the giver of every good and perfect gift.
2. In our lesson we are considering several "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 (Romans 5:6-8; John 3:16).
  - C. The same love that led God to send Jesus to die for us also leads Him to freely give every good and perfect gift 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]
    2. "seeking" [looking or searching for something with the intention of finding it]
    3. "knocking" [persistently trying to gain an entrance].
  - 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 lesson we have shown how God gives good and perfect gifts to His children.
2. Let us adopt the statements made by David in:
  - a. Psalm 55:16-17
  - b. Psalm 145:17-19.