

James 4:2

You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

I think most of us know this verse, or at least a portion of this verses (***because you do not ask***). We have memorized it and love to quote it, but if you just memorize or love or even quote this one verse, you are not getting the entire picture, as it seems that we forget, or don't want to include the next verse, which bring this entire teaching that James is giving us.

Look at the next verse which ties in with today's verse.

† **James 4:3** *You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

So, why do we skim over or not even think of this verse? It's probably because of three words that we don't like to hear or even acknowledge, which is, "***do not receive.***" Don't we at times have the mindset that whatever we ask for that God will give us. So we read today's verse, or really only a portion of it that we love, which is "***Yet you do not have because you do not ask.***" And as we read that we think, "*Well, James is right, because I really have not been asking the Lord for this thing that I want.*" which may be true. But also think about this, how much do you want it, or think that you should have it? James says in this same verse (Which we skim over) "***You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war.***"

Is this thing that we want something that we really need, or are we just lusting after it? "***You lust and do not have.***"

Is it something that we just have to have, or do we feel like we will die if we don't get it, causing us to even covet it, to the point that we are committing murder in our heart to get it, because that's how bad we want it? "***You murder and covet and cannot obtain.***"

Are we willing to fight for it, be it that promotion, or new home, or new car, or things to change to be how we want them to be, or...? "***You fight and war.***"

When we pray and ask for things, we love to quote Jesus in our request when we pray, "*Lord, not my will but Yours be done.*"

† **Luke 22:42** *saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."*

Yeah, we say, "*Lord, not my will but Yours be done*" But when His will is done, and ours isn't, don't we get upset at times with the Lord, even to the point of wondering if He really loves us, because He has not given us what we ask for? When we do that we are living what James said in verse 3 "***You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss***" because we are asking amiss, as

the word of the Lord comes out of our mouth, *“Lord, not my will but Yours be done”*, but how many times is the truth that what we really want to say is, *“Lord, not Your will, but mine be done.”* (Yes, you can say ouch right here) and how do we know which one our heart is really praying?

“Lord, not my will but Yours be done” verses *“Lord, not Your will, but mine be done.”*

The answer is in our reaction to God when says no. When we accept that no answer as coming from a loving God, Who knows what’s best for us, then we truly are praying *“Lord, not my will but Yours be done”* but if we get upset because God didn’t answer our prayer the way we want Him to, then our hearts are really praying, *“Lord, not Your will, but mine be done.”*

† **Ephesians 5:17** *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

† **Psalm 85:12** *Yes, the LORD will give what is good; And our land will yield its increase.*

† **Psalm 141:1-3 (NLT2)** *O LORD, I am calling to you. Please hurry! Listen when I cry to you for help! Accept my prayer as incense offered to you, and my upraised hands as an evening offering. Take control of what I say, O LORD, and guard my lips.*