

Become A Better Receiver
Pastor John Carmichael

[Jas 1:5-8 NASB95] 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 [being] a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- From radio, tv, to football... success is learning to receive what is given.
- James has strong words for receiving.

How to become a better receiver?

Four principles that govern being a better receiver.

- I. The prerequisite to receiving is to recognize the lack.
 - a. Wisdom – how to live. His Word. Empowering for life.
 - b. “want” or “lack” means not satisfied.
 - c. Wisdom is the divine gift for total life success. I Kings 3.
- II. The action to receiving is to ask.
 - a. A.T. Robertson – “keep on asking”.
 - b. [Mat 7:7, 11 NASB95] 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ... 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 what is good to those who ask Him!
- III. The source of receiving is our giving and gracious God.
 - a. [Luk 11:13 NASB95] 13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"
 - b. Generous – unwavering – singleness in giving – without reservation
 - c. Does not reproach – doesn't find fault – not demeaning.
- IV. The manner of receiving is faith.
 - a. Without doubting
 - i. Not intellectual, but motivational and moral.
 - ii. “driven” “tossed” moved by external forces.
 - b. That man
 - i. [Jas 4:8 NASB95] 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
 - ii. Not expect to receive anything.
 - iii. Unstable in all ways.

- We become better receivers when we recognize our need and ask God in faith.