

**FAITH WORKING BY LOVE**  
**FEBRUARY 6, 2022**

**EPHESIANS 2:4-6 (AMPC)**

The bible is all about redemption: in the O.T. it's prepared; in the N.T. it's manifested; in Acts its propagated; and in Revelation it's consummated. Our God is a redemptive God who went to great lengths to restore man's lost relationship. Nothing produces faith like knowing how much God loves us. Paul said His love for us is great.

**GALATIANS 5:6**

A Methodist doctor had a rare eye disease that would eventually leave him totally blind. He prayed, others did also, but his sight deteriorated until he was almost blind. His father said "son, I've lived my life, you're young. I'm donating my eyes to you". He wept and said "no, I won't take your eyes". Soon after he was healed. People asked how? "For the first time I saw my heavenly Father. If my earthly father would sacrifice his eyes for me, how much greater is my heavenly Father's love? Having faith for healing was the easiest thing in the world". **JOHN 16:27** Do we really know how much God loves us?

**MATTHEW 7:7-11 (KJV, MSG)**

How much more? Compared to God, men are evil. If evil men can do good to their children, how much more compassion does God have for His? Jesus revealed God as a loving, caring Father who loves His children much more than any earthly father possibly can. It should be as natural for us to have faith in God, as it is for children to have faith in their parents.

**JAMES 1:5-8**

Many needs go unmet, not because God hasn't given what's needed to get results, but because we haven't learned how to receive what God has already given. Before unpacking these verses in **JAMES**, let's consider **2 PETER 1:3**: He gave us Jesus (**JOHN 3:16**); all things (**ROMANS 8:32**); His Kingdom (**LUKE 11:32**); His Spirit (**JOHN 14:16**); richly (**1 TIMOTHY 6:17**).

**1. JAMES 1:5**

**A.** God is a giving God. It's His nature to give to all men liberally, generously, abundantly, bountifully, without reservations. Why? Because he longs to bless humanity (**PSALMS 84:11**). It's not God who is withholding, it's people not receiving what He's given (Salvation, the Spirit, power, etc.).

**2. JAMES 1:6-8**

**A.** Unwavering faith is required to receive from God. Nothing wavering means doubting nothing. God wants us to come to Him with the utmost confidence and assurance. There is to be no hesitancy or vacillation of mind. The mind needs anchored to the love and faithfulness of God.

**B.** It's not that God must become a better giver; it's that we must become better receivers of what God has given.

**C. JAMES 1:17** Cometh down means there's continuous flow from God to man. Good and perfect gift means it can't be improved upon. God gave His best.

**CONCLUSION:**

If our needs are unmet, it's not because God hasn't given us what we need, or the devil is powerful enough to prevent our success. It's that we must learn to be better receivers of what God has already freely and abundantly given us!