

Reflection

Twenty-Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time

September 22, 2024

James 4.3

St. James is reminding people this Sunday that "you ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions." This text underlines how crucial it is to approach God in prayer with sincere intentions. It also exhorts sincere pleas and cautions against self-interest.

Let's be aware that prayer and the fulfillment of our wishes toward God are halted by sinful desires and passions. Furthermore, God won't hear our prayers if we lack humility. God opposes the arrogant because they oppose God's truths, laws, and providence. But since the humble recognize their need for grace, pray for it, express gratitude for it, and receive it as a result, God will bestow more grace onto them. God will also not bestow upon us a gift that will take the place of himself in our hearts. Still, He does provide us enough for our moderate pleasures, and it pleases him that we utilize his gifts for our healthful leisure and relaxation. However, when our pursuit of pleasure pushes us over the edge into something we must have, we demonstrate that we depend more on pleasure than on God. And since he loves us, he will not allow a rival god.

The Bible has amazing accounts of prayers that were answered, which can inspire and uplift believers. Upon contemplating these events, we are prompted to have faith in God's knowledge and sufficiency, understanding that He consistently grants our requests in accordance with His perfect plan. Let God speak first when you pray. Give Him all your worries, ask Him to use you to exalt Himself, beg for forgiveness, ask Him to show you more of Himself, and ask him to give you knowledge and the strength to follow his instructions. Finally, let us find encouragement in the following examples of prayers that have been answered in the Bible: Hannah's prayer for a child (1 Samuel 1:9–20), David's prayer for deliverance (Psalm 34:4–7), Solomon's prayer for wisdom (1 Kings 3:5–14), Elijah's prayer for rain (1 Kings 18:41–45), Daniel's prayer for understanding (Daniel 9:3-23), Peter's release from prison (Acts 12:1 –17), and Jesus' priestly prayer (John 17).