

knowing before asking - James 1:1-8, 16, 17

Q: Want me, Lord, to know & understand which is first, to call on Thee or to praise Thee? And, again, to know Thee or to call on Thee? For who can call on Thee, not knowing Thee? For he that knoweth Thee not may call on Thee as other than Thou art."

- First, knowing, then asking = can't pray effectively unless know & adequately - or will be asking God to do things contrary to Nature - compromise his character = THE ANSWER TO MANY UNANSWERED PRAYER

PRAYER IS RESPONDING TO GOD'S NATURE - Prayer isn't born in the need of man but in the nature of God - that which draws us should be, not our need but His character = THE XIAN LIFE IS RESPONDING TO GOD'S CHARACTER = LOVED US FIRST - Be Holy for I am Holy
FAITH RESPONSE TO GOD = DONOT IS AN ATTACK ON GOD'S CHARACTER
In James 1, the appeal, encouragement to pray is based on God's nature. God is light, walks in light.

I HE IS A GIVING GOD - vs 17 = giving down continuously
vs 5 = a giving God = an attribute rather than an activity - why ask? It is His nature to give.
- No need to beg, use vain repetition.

1. Give to all men generally = no favorites, no one excluded

2. Give to all men generously = refers to both the abundance & gift's attitude of giver = God isn't tight -

John 11 = "as many as He needeth"

Empire Alexander = gave a servant a golden cup - "too much to take" not too much for me to give!"

3. Give graciously = no rebuke, but we fear we'll come to God too often = no refusal, no rebuke

II - He is a Concerned God = "let Him ask, God is interested in our daily life"

1 - He is concerned about our circumstances = wins it Cana

2 - He is more concerned about us our character than our circumstances = seen in mat

(1) Trials are allowed (2) Wisdom is offered - not be removed, trial (3) Faith is demanded.

III - He is a Trustworthy God - vs 16, 17

no change - nothing changes or shifts

1 - He is a Father

2 - He is Faithful - no change - often it

appears O's gift aren't good - the world
has turned & cast a shadow on the goodness

of O

"When you can't trace O's Land, you
can always Trust O's Heart."

When darkness seems
to hide his face I
rest on his unchanging
grace