

10. Praying with Scriptures James 4:2-3 Do Not Have Did Not Ask

James 4:2-3 (NIV) You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

You do not have because you do not ask God.

Lord, you know everything I think and all my desires. But for my sake, I need to express them to you. So I can form a relationship with you and get to know you. And give you the opportunity to lead me. Help me Lord to remember to come to you with everything. Big or small, urgent or not. You never get tired of hearing from me. I should bring everything to you, so I can learn from you and serve you best.

When you ask, you do not receive,

I should not expect to get everything I ask for. Looking back, I am grateful I haven't. You know what is best. I trust you to do what is right. Even if it means I have to suffer for a time, I know you are still in control. You are holy, righteous, and all-knowing. I do not doubt your love. You are always watchfully caring and looking after me.

because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

I must admit I usually do have motives to get my pleasures. Why would I ask for something I do not want or need? But that is the wrong mindset. My life should be focused around you. Your will be done, not mine. I get that. I understand that. Yet it is so hard to live it.

Maybe I should start my petitions with "If it be your will" or "If it pleases you". That would at least remind me that I am striving to live for you, not for myself. Help me Lord to always (in everything) put you first. To make you the center of my being.

Thank you so much for your scriptures that teach how to live and be close to you. And for your wonderful Holy Spirit. I would be so lost without them. It is an honor to live for you.

I pray in that amazing name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and savior. Amen.