

MESSAGE NOTES
Inquiring Minds Want to Know
Asking But Not Receiving
Pastor Brian Miller

QUESTION 9:

“How do we not pray amiss?”

1. Praying amiss refers to asking **WRONGLY, BADLY, OR IMPROPERLY**.

“You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.” James 4:3 NKJV

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. 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.” James 4:1-3

2. We must pray with a spirit of **HUMILITY**.

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” Isaiah 59:2

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” 1 Peter 3:12

3. We must pray with **SINCERITY**, not for **SHOW**.

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.” Matthew 6:5

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Matthew 6:6

“The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” Psalm 145:18

4. A **RIGHTEOUS LIFE** is the necessary foundation for effective prayer.

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.” Matthew 5:23-24

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

**All scripture in NIV unless specified*

ACTION STEPS:

1. Memorize Psalm 145:18

“The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.”

2. Invite someone to church.