

# Why Christians Fail To Receive Pt 1

Prepared by: Pastor Blaine G. Smith

[MightyFortressChurch.org](http://MightyFortressChurch.org)

## Scripture Study

The goal in this series of lessons is to answer as many questions as possible concerning why Christians fail to receive the promises that are found in God's Word. We are going to look at reasons that are clearly defined in the Word of God. There can also be specific reasons that apply to individual situations that are outside the scope of this lesson. These cases must be addressed through prayer and by receiving specific answers from God and are the exception not the rule.

### Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (KJV)

† God is a man of integrity and honor. He stands behind what He has said. He doesn't make up the rules as He goes, nor does He say one thing today and something different tomorrow. He has clearly laid out His will for us. Not knowing the will of God shows our lack of knowledge. People sweep things they don't understand under a religious rug by making these statements. "You never know what God is going to do, or you know brother, God is sovereign and He can do what ever He wants." God is sovereign, He always has been and always will be. The sovereignty of God is not the issue. God has sovereignly decided to write down His plan and will, so we can know what His sovereign will is for us. There are sixty six books of the Bible written down for our learning and instruction. Lets look for answers instead of excuses. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

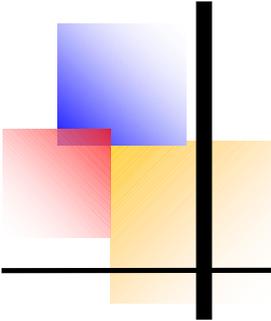
17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (KJV)

### James 1:16-18

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. (NIV)



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✠ The Amplified Bible says the Father gives light and there is no variation in Him. John said. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." God is the Word and the Word is truth. Truth never changes, so God [or the Word] never changes. Our job is to know the truth [Word] and we will know God. God and His Word are one. We need to get away from religious ideas and excuses for why God doesn't keep His Word or why we don't have the answers to our questions. Let us dig deep and lay our foundation on His Word. "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." (Mark 13:31)

## **John 17:17**

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (KJV)

## **John 8:31-32**

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (KJV)

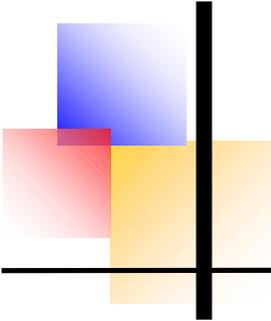
✠ It isn't enough to just believe on Jesus. Believing is only the starting place. The Amplified Bible says if you abide in His Word [hold fast to His teachings and live in accordance with them], then are you His disciples. You must be disciples first then you will know the truth [Word] and the truth [Word] will set us free. Most Christians want God's promises without selling out totally and completely. We must know that we can get answers to any question and that God never changes. Start expecting answers!

## **James 4:2-3**

2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. (KJV)

✠ There are so many possible places to start with this study however, this is as basic as you can get. First reason. You have not because you ask not. You would be surprised how many Christians don't take the time to ask. Next reason. You ask and receive not because you ask amiss. This word amiss [kakos #2560] in the Greek means: evil, badly (phys. or morally). Asking out of line with the Word of God is to ask amiss. We must have desires that are in line with the Lord's will. God is offering us the greatest blessing He has, which is Jesus. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Rom 8:32) "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32) God is not withholding any good thing from us. Our job is to find out what is good and ask in line with God's Word.



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## **1 John 3:22**

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. (KJV)

- ✠ Keeping God's Word and living a holy, righteous life is fundamental if we expect to receive whatever we ask. Disobedience and sin will stop you from receiving answers to your prayers.

## **Hosea 4:6**

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. (KJV)

- ✠ Another basic reason why Christians fail to receive is a lack of knowledge. God said this to Jeremiah. "For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge." (Jer 4:22) If we don't know God and His ways we are foolish. A fool is wise in his own eyes, he is void of wisdom and full of pride. We can change a lack of knowledge through study and receiving instruction revealed by the Spirit of God. "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." (1 Jn 2:27)

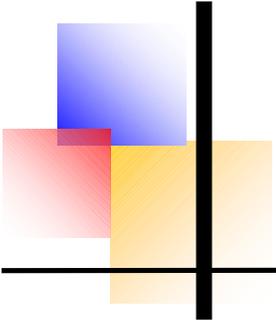
## **Romans 12:2**

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (KJV)

## **2 Timothy 2:15**

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (KJV)

- ✠ Anyone that has ever read the Bible knows about Rom 12:2 & 2 Tim 2:15, but the real question is how much time is spent studying and renewing the mind? Jesus taught us to "be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you - and more [besides] will be given to you who hear." From what I have seen through the years, ignorance is probably the biggest reason why Christians fail to receive the promises of God. Someone could deposit a million dollars in your bank account but if you didn't know it, it would never do you any good. Ignorance doesn't stop there. You could know about the million dollars and not know how to make a withdrawal and still receive no benefit. Get even more serious about your study time with God. Find out what belongs to you and how to withdraw it from your heavenly account. Don't forget you are an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ.



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## **Galatians 4:7**

Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. (KJV)

## **Romans 8:17**

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. (KJV)

## **Hebrews 6:17**

Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. (NIV)

✠ It is God's plan and desire for the heirs to know His unchanging purpose and plan for them. He went as far as taking an oath to establish or verify His will or plan for us.

## **Psalms 112:1-8**

1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

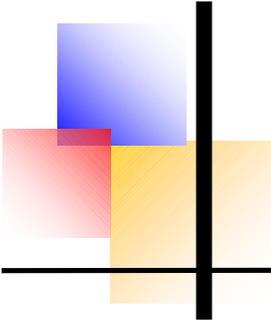
5 A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

6 Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

8 His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies. (KJV)

✠ You must have a fixed and established heart. There are far too many Christians that know very little about their covenant with God. We cannot have a solid relationship with the Lord without knowing His will. Jesus said that His Word's are Spirit and they are life. God's Word is a living thing. His Word must get out of our head and into our heart. Our heart must be fixed and established on the Word of God to the point that heaven and earth could pass away and your faith would not be shaken.



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## James 1:6-8

6 Only it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind.

7 For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord.

8 [For being as he is] a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything [he thinks, feels, decides]. (AMP)

✦ Faith rules apply to anything you ask God for. Don't think you will receive anything from the Lord if you waver, hesitate or doubt. God's promises are received through faith.

## James 1:22-25

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (KJV)

✦ If ignorance is the biggest reason that people fail to receive, the next biggest reason would be knowing and not doing. Being a hearer only will keep you from receiving the promises of God. A hearer mentally acknowledges that the Word is true but the Word never gets into their heart in abundance and so their actions never correspond with what they say they believe. Faith is believing in your heart and speaking out of the overflow of the heart. A hearer believes in his head and mentally acknowledges the Word. Hearers are self deceived by thinking they are in faith when in reality they are only in hope. Learn to follow directions to the letter. Learn the difference between believing with your head and believing with your heart. One belief system works and the other doesn't.

## James 2:17-24

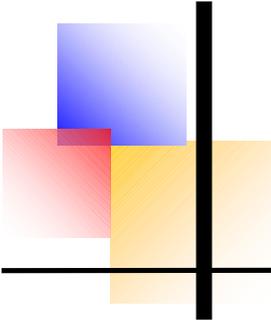
17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?



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22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. (KJV)

✠ Simply believing is not faith. Even devils believe and tremble yet they don't have faith. Faith is knowing and doing. If we really believe the Word we will act on the Word. Faith is made perfect or complete through corresponding actions. Faith actions will demonstrate what we say we believe. Saying we believe a promise and never acting like the promise is true is not faith. You are still only mentally acknowledging the Word.

## Galatians 5:6

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. (KJV)

## 2 Timothy 2:22-26

22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. (KJV)

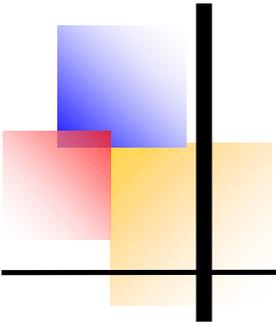
Faith works by love. If we are not walking in love, faith will not work. Strife is an enemy to faith. If you are in strife the devil has taken you captive at his will. Guard against strife at all costs.

## Mark 11:25-26

25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses. (KJV)

✠ Unforgiveness will hinder your prayers. Love forgives and forgets. Faith works by love and unforgiveness is not walking in love. Keep all unforgiveness out of your heart.



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## **Mark 7:13**

Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." (NIV)

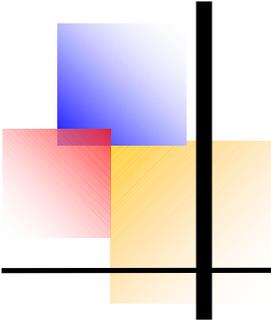
✠ Believing and walking in tradition [religion] will nullify the Word of God in your life. We all have been given a free will and the right to believe anything we choose to believe. Be careful what you believe, for what you believe will control your life. Anything that is not a truth is a lie and if we believe a lie we will be damned in that area, but if we believe the truth, the truth will make us free. Never stop challenging things you believe with the Word of God. We all have room to grow in knowledge and understanding. As the Psalmist said. "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." Develop a deeper love for His Word.

## **Philippians 4:6-7**

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

✠ Anxiety and worry walk hand in hand with fear and doubt all of which are enemies to faith. These are all warning signs along the road of faith. God's peace will guard your heart and mind if you refuse to be anxious and make your petition through prayer and thanksgiving. If you really believe you received what you prayed for, peace will be the result. If there is no peace don't expect an answer. Peace is God's stamp of approval.



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## Study Questions

1. James 1:16-18 tells us to be not deceived. Explain what he was referring to.
2. Explain what it means to ask amiss.
3. Complete the following verse. "Because God wanted ..."
4. Expound on James 1:6-8.
5. Summarize James 2:17-24.
6. What is the consequence of strife?
7. List as many reasons as you can for why Christians fail to receive as found in this lesson.
8. What did God reveal to you as you studied?

## Extra Blessing

**(Study to show yourself approved unto God 2 Timothy 2:15)**

Proverbs Chapter 1

2 Peter 3:9