

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for December 26-27, 1998

"Stop Kidding Yourself"

Dale Whitehead

James 1:19-27

Supplication is any speech directed to God that makes a request of Him.

What does God want from us in this area?

He wants us to come to Him with our requests.

When we approach the Lord, we can be confident that He will not only receive us but that He will bless us for having come to Him (Hebrews 4:16).

There are blessings awaiting all those who come to the Lord in prayer. But if we do not come to the Lord with our requests we must understand that those blessings may never be realized (James 4:2).

He wants us to come to Him with our requests humbly (Matthew 6:9-10).

"Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven, but for getting God's will done on earth."

He wants us to come to Him persistently and humbly with our requests (Luke 11:5-11).

The key word in the parable is "persistence." The word literally means "shamelessness."

The three verbs - "ask," "seek," and "knock," indicate an ascending intensity. When pursuing something we believe is good and in accordance with God's purposes and design, we should not over time grow less intense in petitioning but rather if anything more intense.