

FA35. Praying with Right Motives.

We are to pray with right motives.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

James 4:3

Or you pray and don't receive, because you pray with the wrong motive, that of wanting to indulge your own desires.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 6:5-8

Romans 8:26

Related New Testament Mitzvot

FA26 Praying with Faith and without Doubt

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

None

Comment

James 4:3 entreats us to pray with right motives and exemplifies as a wrong motive “to indulge your own desires.” It would nevertheless be incorrect to assume that we should never pray for that which we desire. The NKJ translates it differently; it says: “you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.” Clearly, our pleasures should not dominate our prayers; the ideal is that our pleasures and desires coincide with God’s.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

G19 Praying in Faith & Having Faith for That Which We Pray