

James 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Analysis

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. James issues a sober warning: the doubting person should not "think" (*oiesthō*, *οἴεσθω*) he will receive anything. The verb carries the idea of a fanciful assumption—wishful thinking disconnected from covenant loyalty. To "receive" (*lēmpsetai*, *λήμψεται*) is not to earn but to welcome God's gifts; chronic distrust closes the hands that would have been filled.

In Reformed thought, this does not deny God's compassion toward the weak but exposes hardened unbelief that refuses to submit to His wisdom. James echoes Jesus' teaching that prayer without faith is empty babble. God's generosity does not negate the necessity of trusting Him; grace is bestowed along the path of dependent obedience.

Historical Context

Some diaspora believers flirted with double allegiance—attending synagogue gatherings while appeasing local patrons or pagan guilds. James, as Jerusalem's pillar, clarifies that such divided loyalties obstruct divine blessing. Paul's letters similarly confront double-minded Galatians tempted to add law observance to grace.

The admonition would have comforted persecuted Christians tempted to believe

that God had forgotten them: their assurance was not in visible success but in steadfast trust aligned with apostolic teaching.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Have you cultivated habits of prayer that expect God to answer, or do you default to skepticism?
2. What might repentance look like for subtle unbelief that blocks receiving God's wisdom?
3. How can community help you hold fast to faith when circumstances stay difficult?

Interlinear Text

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|-------|-------|--------|-------|----------|---------|-------|------------------|
| μὴ | γὰρ | οἴέσθω | ό | ἄνθρωπος | ἐκεῖνος | ὅτι | λήψεται |
| not | For | let | G3588 | man | that | that | he shall receive |
| G3361 | G1063 | G3633 | | G444 | G1565 | G3754 | G2983 |

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|----------|
| τι | παρὰ | τοῦ | κυρίου |
| any thing | of | G3588 | the Lord |
| G5100 | G3844 | | G2962 |

Additional Cross-References

James 4:3 (Parallel theme): Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Proverbs 21:27 (Parallel theme): The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

Isaiah 1:15 (Parallel theme): And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Proverbs 15:8 (References Lord): The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

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