

Origin

Food4Life
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Fire in the Right Direction

James 4:1-10

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. 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.

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

The Context:

- ⇒ James is writing to Jewish Christians.
- ⇒ Prior to this passage, James has discussed a lifestyle that is characterized by an unregenerate mind – a major ingredient to “worldliness”
- ⇒ The first century church was already in turmoil. Believers couldn't get along with each other; *they were firing in the wrong direction!*

What causes fights and quarrels among you?

- ⇒ From the desires that battle within us.
- ⇒ The word desire means “pleasures” and comes from the Greek word “hedonon.”
- ⇒ It is the source for the English word hedonism – a philosophy that views pleasure as the chief goal of life.
- ⇒ Once man desires pleasure more than he does God life becomes total anarchy, pandemonium and destruction (James 4:2).
- ⇒ According to James (4:3) when people ask God for something they don't receive because they ask with wrong motives.
- ⇒ The word “kosmos” (“world”) refers to the system of evil controlled by Satan; all that is wicked and in opposition to God on this earth.
- ⇒ The phrase “friendship with the world is hatred toward God” means to adopt the world's set of values and want what the world wants instead of choosing according to the Spirit.

What's the solution?

- ⇒ The solution is to take action:
 - Submit
 - Resist
 - Come near
 - Wash your hands
 - Purify your hearts
 - Grieve
 - Morn
 - Wail
 - Change
 - Humble yourself