

# JAMES 4

## WARNING AGAINST WORLDLINESS

Chapter three ended like this: **3:17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- **This thought continues...**

**James 4:1** Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

- OR... Because you do not ask in the right way...
- **V2 CEV** - You want something you don't have, and you will do anything to get it. You will even kill! But you still cannot get what you want, and you won't get it by fighting and arguing. You should pray for it.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, **(IE, selfishly)** that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

- **COURSON** - "I do pray," you may say. "But I don't get what I ask for."
- That's because you're asking amiss. Prayer is not giving orders. It's reporting for duty. And once a person finally understands that prayer is not man saying, "Bless the business; bring in the money; solve the problem," and God saying, "Aye, aye, Captain," his prayer life will be revolutionized.
- Prayer is saying, "Father what do You want to do in my life? I want You to do what You see is best for me because I get mixed up so easily."

## BEFRIENDING THE WORLD

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **CEV - You people**

aren't faithful to God! Don't you know that if you love the world, you are God's enemies? And if you decide to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

- **1 John 2:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
  - CCSV, WE need to reject worldly things... Worldly advice... Worldly ways. We swim against the flow of worldly culture!
    - Does that make us weird? WELL... Peculiar, for sure!
  - **1 Peter 2:9** But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:
- **Listen, the last thing we want to do is to become an enemy of the Lord, RIGHT?**
  - **Walk in His light!**

5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

- THIS is why we feel bad when we behave in a worldly way.
  - The Holy Spirit within us LONGS for us to be close to the Lord!
    - He is uncomfortable in this world too!
- Jon Courson compares this to when our kids bring a friend around that YOU JUST KNOW is going to get them into trouble – You “Yearn jealously” to get them away from that friend, RIGHT?
  - What kind of a special relationship would it be if your teenager said, “Oh, OK Dad... If you are not happy with my friend, Spike, I will stop hanging out with him?”
- THAT is the kind of relationship the Lord wants from us... **Like in V6...**

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." **PROVERBS 3:34**

## SUBMIT AND RESIST

7 Therefore submit (**Get under and stay under**) to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- Resist means to stand against...
  - I think the best defense is a strong offense, and Jesus is the best offense ever! Beloved, Satan wants NOTHING to do with the blood of Jesus. SO... stay close to Jesus and the Devil will stay fer from you... **Listen...**

8 Draw near (**Stay close**) to God and He will draw near to you.

- What a glorious promise! AND a very helpful hint...

8b Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

- Remember Chapter 1:8 ?- Talking about those who have no faith? "he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."
- I have found that FOR ME... Moving forward in faith has the effect of purifying my heart. I KNOW that the Lord is going to give me the desire of my heart... IF I DELIGHT myself in Him! **Psalm 37:4-5**
- I will NOT live in fear of HIM letting me down. I WILL NOT! That is being double-minded, and we don't live that way, right CCSV?
- Lets stay clear of the world, purify our hearts, and walk by faith, and humble ourselves.... Listen...

9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

- Jesus said in **Mathew 5:3** "**Blessed are the poor (broken) in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who**

## mourn, For they shall be comforted.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- Why would he need to lift us up after we humble ourselves in His sight?
  - Perhaps because humbling ourselves involves lowering our pride to the ground.
    - Not a physical lowering, but maybe... decreasing our will and increasing His.
  - JTB said, "He must increase, but I *must* decrease." **JOHN 3:30**
- Have you humbled yourself in a way that requires being picked back up?

### WATCH YOUR WORDS

11 Do not speak evil of (**Condemn**) one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges (**G2919 Wishes punishment on**) his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another? **CEV - My friends, don't say cruel things about others! If you do, or if you condemn others, you are condemning God's Law. And if you condemn the Law, you put yourself above the Law and refuse to obey either it 12 or God who gave it. God is our judge, and he can save or destroy us. What right do you have to condemn anyone?**

**What law is being spoken of here? Perhaps the Law that Jesus quoted in **Matthew 22:35**** Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying,

36 "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?"

37 Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 This is *the* first and great commandment. 39 And *the* second *is* like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." **WOW! How can we obey this law and condemn one another?**

## LIFE IS SHORT

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

- I was talking to Perry about Pizzas on Friday afternoon... It's one of our favorite subjects to talk about. We were planning how many pizzas, what kinds of pizzas... toppings... sauce... oregano, cheeses, sizes, etc. Finally, we came up with a plan and said: "See you later..." to which Perry replied, "If the Lord wills, bye!"
  - He was right to say that.
    - See you later IF the Lord wills.

16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

- Boasting is just bad in general, isn't it?

## SIN OF OMISSION

17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.