

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 4:1-6

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Our Internal War”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
- deceiving yourselves.

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of The Text

vv. 1-6

James 4:1-6

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. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 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. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? ⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Summation Sentence

To all of us who love God and have received the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and King, we have all been awakened to fact that there is, internally, a great battle that rages...

Matthew 18:2-3

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³ and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

What About Our Conversion Experience?
Was It Radical?

John 3:3-9

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹
Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

We Once Had Just One Nature

Ephesians 2:1b-2

... who were once dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Us Then - A Nature That Rejected God in Practice

Ephesians 2:3-5

among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Us Now - We are to Fight Off this Old Nature

Ephesians 4:22

that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

**If You Have No Idea of What I'm Talking About
then I want to ask you, "have ever stood and acknowledged Jesus
as your personal Lord and savior?"**

1.) The Origin of Our Internal War

vv. 1

Where do **wars** and **fights** come from among you? Do they not come from your **desires** for **pleasure** that war in your members?

1a.) Personal Conflict can be Expected

Where do **wars** and **fights** come from among **you**?

* **You** grk = you(s) as in us!

Have you noticed:

We all do not agree on everything

Paul's Exhortation

Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Among Other Christians
((think with wisdom))

BECAUSE OF THAT -- WHERE DO **WARS**

* **War** **grk 4171 polemos (pol'-em-os);**
a battle, a war. A single occurrence, or a series of battles, or a full campaign

Continuous warring one against another
A sustained war between individuals

* **fight**s **grk 3163 mache (makh'-ay);**
striving. Friction, personality conflicts

Example

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak **the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions** among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. ¹² Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Divisions come from a warring and fighting heart

The Origin of Our Internal War

1b.) The War Comes From Our **Personal Desires**

Where do wars and fights come from among you?

Do they not come from your **desires** for **pleasure**
that war in your members?

**You Want What You Want and You Want it Now!
But What Does God Want for You?**

The Source Of Our Personal Conflicts Come From Our Personal
Desires

“Our desires for pleasure”

The Battle Ground is in Our Members!
That war **in your members**

* war grk 4754 strateuomai (strat-yoo'-om-ahee);
to plan and to devise; strategize. To premeditate

“This is what I want”
so I am going to draw up a plan to get it my way

To Manipulate Others for Selfish Gain

It's Internal Friend

* members grk 3196 melos (mel'-os);
a limb or part of the body.

The Core of the flesh

it's not my physical mouth, hand or eyes that get me in trouble.
these things are neutral -- it's what drives them behind the scenes

Colossians 3:3-5

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. ⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Romans 7:14-25

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. ¹⁷ But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.....

Romans 7:14-25 cont.

.....²⁰ Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

The New, Spiritual Man vs The Old, Carnal Nature

Is There an Internal War In You, like there was in Paul and in Peter...?

Have You Argued With Anyone This Week, Today, Within the Hour?

Personal Desires Were at The Root of the Argument

Our Personal Desires are Bent on Going to War

2.) Why We're Not Always Content

vv. 2-3

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

Why We're Not Always Content

2a.) Because Our **Methods** are Often Wrong

There are 3 Misleading Methods

#1

You **lust** and do not have,
to set your affection, attention upon something that you do not have

#2

You **murder**

to dismantle someone's reputation. To discredit someone else

#3

and **covet** and cannot obtain

to pursue and chase after someone or something

Lust - Murder - Covetousness

We are Often Not Satisfied in this Life
because we are envious and self-seeking

Why We're Not Always Content

2b.) Because Our **Motives** are Often Wrong

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

* **amiss** **grk** 2560 **kakos** (kak-ocē');
asking badly (phys. or morally): a diseased, evil, sick, sore request

To Ask for an Abusive or Fruitless Thing

Example

"Lord, If you Lord would give me a **Suburban**, and a lifetime membership to **In-N-Out Burger** and that home overlooking **Corona Del Mar**... then I'll take my neighbors to **church**, I'll feed the **hungry** and I'll even take home the **homeless** "

* **spend it** **grk** 1159 **dapanao** (dap-an-ah'-o);
to waste it or to misappropriate. To use in a unlawful way

What Are Our Motives?

Illustration

The little boy who wanted a new bicycle
(and the dashboard statue)

Jeremiah 17:9-10

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? ¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind,

We're to ask in accordance to God's will

What are you asking God to do?
Why are you asking?

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Matthew 6:33-34

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
³⁴ "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Our Motive is to have it for ourselves

When The Christian is Called to Share

In Common

Acts 2:42-44

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

Mark 11:24

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

The Prerequisite for Answered

John 15:7-8

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

1.) The Origin of Our Internal War

vv. 1

2.) Why We're Not Always Content

vv. 2-3

3.) The Victory that we Should be Enjoying

vv. 4-6

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. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? ⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

There are 4 Principles that will Guarantee us the Victory
over this Internal Battle

3a.) #1/4- Our Relationship Toward God is to Be Singular

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.

Adulterers and adulteresses!

Because my friendship with the world
is in Opposition to my faithfulness to God

What Does James Mean?

having a heart divided...

to live for the pleasures of this life

Philippians 4:11b-13

for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Having an Even Keel

whether in poverty -- or in riches

My Desires can cause me to commit Spiritual Adultery

The First Commandment

Exodus 20:1-3

And God spoke all these words, saying: ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.

Israel's Adultery

Jeremiah 3:6

The LORD said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: "Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot.

The World Scene Exists To Pull Us Away From God

1 John 2:15-17

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.

I Have Rarely Seen the Right Type of Ambition

Jeremiah 45:5a

"And do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for behold, I will bring adversity on all flesh

(verse 4)

Do you not know that friendship with the world
is **enmity** with God?

* **Enmity** grk 2190 **echthros (ech-thros)**;
to hate or to be hateful or hostile. To come an adversary

Who is Our Great Adversary?
Satan & His Workers!

(verse 4)

Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world
makes himself an **enemy** of God.

The Victory that we Should be Enjoying

3b.) #2/4 Based Upon The Reaction of the spirit

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

Scripture Version Differs Here at this Verse

In The NIV

James 4:5

Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?

In the NAS

James 4:5

Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

"The Spirit who **dwells** in us **yearns jealously**

* **yearns jealously** **grk** with a strong passion toward evil envy

This is Evil

Notice the Contrasting Argument in Verse 6

(verse 6)

““But”” He gives more grace... **in contrast / against the evil**

(verse 5)

“Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain”

There is no verse in the entire scripture that this is quoted from

But the truth of it is throughout the Scriptures

James is Saying

The whole of the scriptures teach this terrible truth

“That the spirit that dwells within man is bent on jealousy and selfishness and personal gain” - wars and fighting

Pre-Flood

Genesis 6:5

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every **intent** of the **thoughts** of his heart was only evil **continually**.

Post-Flood

Genesis 8:21

And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the **imagination** of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

A Denial of Your Original Sin Nature is to Blaspheme God

1 John 1:8-10

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:10-12

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."

The Victory that we Should be Enjoying

3c.) #3/4 God Resists the Proud

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
"God **resists** the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Therefore He says: "God **resists** the proud

Pride is at the Root of Our Problem

Ezekiel 28:15

You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
until iniquity (**pride**) was found in you.

Why Isn't My Life Blessed By God ?

Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Revelation 2:5

"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place -- unless you repent.

God is Searching for the Humble & the Broken-Hearted

The Internal Misfits of this World

Matthew 9:10-13a

Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 "But go and learn what this means:

The Victory that we Should be Enjoying

c.) #4/4 God has Given All that We Need

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
"God resists the proud, **but gives grace to the humble.**"

Pride makes Receiving a gift so difficult

Christians Need to Learn How to Receive

The Humble can expect a deep rest

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls (emotional peace). ³⁰ "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Grace Abounds = The Divine Favor, Enabler

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Philippians 4:7

and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Let's Determine to Get Along

for Jesus' sake, not your sake or mine, but for His sake

Colossians 3:12-13

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

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