

05 May



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: James – week 8



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member the difference between being a friend of God, or an enemy of God?
2. What caused fights among believers according to v.1? **(Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?).**
3. What was the wrong motive behind believers asking God in v.3? **(You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.).**
4. What is friendship with the world according to v.4? **(You adulterous people. Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God.).**



Let's go deeper

5. What is God's promise to those who humble themselves before Him in v.6? **(God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.).**
6. What must we do to the devil according to v.7? **(Resist the devil and he will flee from you.).**
7. What does God promise us in v.8 and 10? **(v.8; Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. v.10; Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.).**
8. How should believers not speak to each other according to v.11? **(Do not speak evil against one another, brothers.).**



Let's apply this

9. James 4:8 and 10; Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. v.10; **Humble yourselves** before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Draw near to God in faith and obedience. Confess your sin, and allow God to clean and purify you. God promise to draw near to you and give you, His grace.

- Are there any sins that you need to give to God?
- Ask and allow the Holy Spirit to help you draw near to God?
- Speak to a godly friend to help you grow in your relationship with God.

SUMMARY:

James: Week 8 – How to end wars

Read: James 4:1 – 12

James explained that there are three wars in the world:

1. We are at war with each other (see v.1, 11 – 12).

v.11; Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. This is a war of words.

2. We are at war with ourselves (see v.1 – 3).

v.1b; ...Your passions are at war within you. The root of sin is pride and selfishness. Eve disobeyed God because she wanted to eat of the tree and become wise like God. Covetousness (idolatry) can make a person murder, and violate all of God's law. Pride and selfish living lead to war. An internal war, will lead to an external war.

3. We are at war with God (see v.4 – 10).

v.4; Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? The root cause of every war, internal and external, is rebellion against God. At the beginning of creation, you behold perfect harmony, but sin came into the world, and led to conflict. Sin is lawlessness (see 1 John 3:4), and lawlessness is rebellion against God.

James names three enemies that war against us:

1. The world (see v.4).

By the "world," James means, human society, or systems apart from God and anti-God. Abraham was called a friend of God; Lot was a friend of the world. He pitched his tents near Sodom "a wicked and sinful city" (see Genesis 13:12 – 12), and then he lived in Sodom (see Genesis 14:12) and ended up being taken captive in Genesis 14:14. Do not "flirt" with sin it will take you captive.

2. The flesh (see v.1 and 5).

By "the flesh" is meant the old nature that we inherited from Adam, that is prone to sin. "For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other..." (see Galatians 5:17).

3. The devil (v.6 – 7).

Pride is Satan's great sin, and it is one of his chief weapons in his warfare against God's people. God wants us to be humble; Satan wants us to be proud. "You will be like God," Satan promised Eve, and she believed him. God wants us to depend on His grace (He gives more grace), while the devil wants us to depend on ourselves.

Three instructions to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil:

Submit to God (v.7). Surrender leads to victory in God's Kingdom.

Draw near to God (v.8). Confess sin, and allow God to clean and purify you.

Humble yourselves before God (v.9 – 10). Humility brings God's grace.