

## JAMES 4:1-10

“Victory Because Grace Is Greater”

### VS. 1

**The origin of our “battles” is our fleshly desires**

Source=origin

Pleasures=desires / lust

Members=piece of your body (flesh)

- Gal.5:16-17=desires opposed
- Rom.8:12-13=killing the deeds of the flesh
- Col.3:5=mortify

\*We should have no mercy on our flesh!

\*Beware of the deception in our flesh it is animalistic and will do anything not to die!!

### VS.2

**Our desires are never satisfied** (you lust and you do not have)

- How many people would testify that once they got, the money, the job, the wife, etc...that they were completely satisfied?
- Review 1 Kings 20:1-6 “Ben-hadad wanted MORE!”

**We try to fill the desires of the flesh our way**

- Murder could be character assassination
- Envy / coveting leads to destruction 1 Tim. 6:6-10 (What do you wrongly desire?)
- These are extreme examples of self-reliance

**The opposite of self-reliance is God-reliance**

- Rom.13:12-14
- Luke 10:3-4 / 14:25-35
- Phil. 4:10-13

**Our fleshly desires cause a lack of prayer**

- Not asking God because we know it’s not in His will??
- Not asking because we are too busy trying to obtain OUR way??
- What things we could be getting from God that we aren’t, because we don’t ask?
- It’s ok to make request (admit desires); just remember His will first (Matt.6:9-13)

### VS.3

**Misdirected prayer (Our flesh twisted into in our “walk with God”)**

- Wrong motives=lit. ask badly (because it’s out of a selfish desire)
- Not “prayer formula” correct wording this is a mentality of magic or genie in a bottle rather than about a trusting relationship with the Supreme Father!
- Spend=squander
- For something that won’t last (not eternal) / God has our best interest at heart (eternal treasure)

## VS.4

### *The world*

I John 2:15-17

- Lust of the flesh--desires of body (meat)  
--animal desires / pleasure / fight vs. flight / gluttony / laziness / etc...
  - Lust of the eyes-- envy / greed / material desires
  - Pride of life—false reputation / pretending
- does control (god-ship) fit into this category? If so, worry would be a part of this.  
\*\*It is said that all sin including the sin in the garden falls into these 3 categories  
\*\*God does not influence us through any of these means

### *The flesh is hostile towards God!*

- Rom. 8:5-8

## VS.5

### *The Spirit is jealous for us!*

- Ex. 20:5 / 43:14 / Zech. 8:2

## VS.6

### *The power of God's grace is GREATER!*

I Cor. 15:3-9

I Tim. 1:12-17

Rom. 5:19-21(God's grace is so benevolent that some may tend to take it for granted...6:1)

FACT / BIG PICTURE / THE HOPE: *Opposed to proud, but grace to humble*

- Psalm 138:6
- Humility requires Honesty—the realization that I can't do anything without Him! (NOT... my way seems to work pretty good)
- See Notes on VS. 10 (Also read Psalm 51)

## VS.7

### Reliance on God (4:7-10)...Repentance

THE PROCESS / THE STEPS: *Submit, Resist, Draw, Cleanse, Sorrow, Humble*

- Note: knowing love → brings trust → trust brings surrender!! Keep going back to the love of God!!—II Thes. 3:5

- **Submit** ; What/Who are you yielded to?

\*\*\*\*\*Rom. 6:11-19\*\*\*\*\*

Vs.11...

--Consider-calculate / decide

--Dead-lifeless / destitute of force or power

Vs.12...

--Do not let-us have a choice!

--Reign- be king / ruler / exercise influence or control

--Obey-to listen-one who comes to find out who is knocking at the door  
(a porter / servant) / to submit to

Vs.13...

--Yield (present)-to place beside or near / place at ones disposal /to stand  
by ready

--Instrument-tool / weapon

*\*Practice—Through the day ask yourself (out loud if necessary)*

*“In this instance, am I going to submit myself to God or to the desire I feel?”*

**-This requires relationship with Him...to be sensitive to His leading—we need to be putting ourselves close to Him, be by Him! This is more than just be ready for duty and obligation...it should flow out of a trusting relationship!**

\*\*\* James 3:2-8 Our tongue is a good example of how we cannot control (tame) our own members, without having them yielded to God.

Christ did the will of the Father...John 4:33-34 / John 6:38

- **Resist**-lit. stand against...this can't be done in our power  
#1--MUST FIRST SUBMIT!!  
#2--RESISTING CAN ONLY BE DOWN IN HIS POWER!!  
-**Eph 6:10-13**-Do we seriously think that we can stand against rulers and powers on our own? Why do we try so often to fight our flesh, sin, evil of others in our own power?  
-**I Pet. 5:8-11**-  
\*Resist=to set ones self against  
\*Firm=immovable / solid stubborn  
Firm in FAITH...resisting can only be done, as we trust God!! Lean on Him!! It is about a relationship!!---trust!!

**\*James 1:5-8- Faith vs. Doubting**

**THE TACTICS**

- I John 2:15-17...think of most all advertisements
- NOT RESISTING (example)=Gen. 3:1-7(note-**doubts/ denies/distorts** Gods Word)
- RESISTING PERFECTLY (example) = Matt. 4: 1-11
- **We can stand firm only when we trust God**  
**If you doubt His goodness, truth, love, wisdom, Word, etc...you will not be able to stand firm and resist**
- He will flee from you (Matt 4:1-11) But he also will return...Don't let this be a discouragement!! Let it be a motivation to stay in fellowship with God!

**VS.8**

**Draw near to God**

- **Draw near to GOD!** not a system, religion, church, duties, etc...
- We often want God to "seem closer" the best thing for **us to do** is to draw near to Him rather than just wait and feel like He is being distant from us
- This is obedience (submit/resist) and MORE...it's RELATIONSHIP!
- Heb. 7:19...Draw Near

- Heb 10:19-22—Sincere= that which corresponds to the idea signified by the name (in other words...draw near, knowing that we have been cleansed by the perfect sacrifice...Jesus Christ!)
- 1 John 1:7—We need to walk WHERE God is! (Bring yourself to Him!)  
-Speaks of fellowship! We experience our cleansing when we walk with Him!
- Remember it is Him who made the first move!

**Cleanse your hands / purify your hearts**

- **Cleanse**
- 1 John 1:8-9—Duck example (John 13)
- Admit our sinfulness and Confess (agree with God)
- **Hands**=outward actions / **Hearts**=inner attitudes
- Be cleansed and then continue to walk it out...live pure, since you've been made pure!
- This is dependence on Him and His blood: We need a Savior!!
- Double-minded=James 1:6-8

**VS.9**

**There is a sorrow that leads to change!**

- **Be Sorrowful**
- This comes out of realization and desperation
- My own sin example...let yourself get hit in the head with your sin!!
- 2 Cor. 7:8-12...sorrow to zeal
- Rev. 3:17-20...ignorance, realization, repentance, fellowship

**VS.10**

**Humble in His presence**

- **Humble yourself in His presence**
- Humble= to bring yourself low
- Go into His presence (His “market”)Rev 3:18 / Is. 55:1-4
- This is not pouting / self pity
- This is dependence, submission, as well as, comfort, and support

**He will exalt you**

- I Pet. 5:5-11...Christ did this perfectly
- Phil. 2:5-11

## **VS.11-17 OVERVIEW**

### **Remembering in daily life that I'm not God!**

- Vs.17...We have a God, Boss, and Father and it is not our flesh, the world, or the devil...IT IS GOD!
- Vs.17...All these instructions are THE RIGHT THING TO DO! We need to humble ourselves before Him!
- Note: Chapter 4 deals with our enemies...our flesh, the world, and the devil!!

I'm convinced we would be victorious over sin, if we would just follow these 6 steps out of a sincere relationship with God. The reason follow steps usually doesn't work for us, is because then we are trying to do them out of our power and without a relationship with God.

\*\*Psalm 51

### **VS.11-17 –theme= Remembering in daily life that I'm not God!**

- Vs.17...We have a God, Boss, and Father and it is not our flesh, the world, or the devil...IT IS GOD!

### **More on verses 10-17...AM I TRUSTING GOD OR TRYING TO BE GOD?**

Isaiah Chapter 1

Some connections to James

- 1:9-11 (vs.12=eternal perspective)
- 1:17-21
- 1:25-27
- 2:1-3 (vs. 5=eternal perspective)
- 3:1
- 4:6-10

### **James 3:13**

- We show our wisdom by good behavior  
--meekness (the idea of gentleness that is a result of power and self control)

vs. 17

- Pure—clean / holy / modest / sincere / without spot
- Peaceable—quiet / harmonious / agreeable
- Gentle—Mild / tolerant / fair
- Reasonable—Easy to approach / (It's easy to share your opinion with this person)
- Full—stuffed
- Mercy—compassion / goodness / **active** pity
- Good—profitable and useful
- Fruits—deeds / conduct / works

- Unwavering—without separating, judging or distinguishing
  - Hypocrisy—pretending (genuine)
- (genuine...if we are being genuine does it look like the list above or do we pretend to look like the list above?)

### **James 4:10**

- Humble—to bring low, to make **poor** and **needy**
- This is to be done in the presence of God
  - His presence is everywhere
  - Keeps us guarded against “self-pity” (I’m nothing, but I’m in the presence of the King)

vs.11-12

- Notice the word brother 3x...family
- Why do we judge?
  - makes me feel better about myself
  - hides my sin by focusing on others
  - believe our righteousness (acts) somehow originated in me (self-righteous)
  - ignorant of my own state

Reasons not to Judge based on vs.11-12

- \*\*against your brother—it is contrary to our family
  - \*\*against Law—It’s against love (unloving)
  - \*\*Who is judge—We have no right
- Do not speak against a brother
    - Matt. 7:1-5 (Are you as serious about your own sin as you are about others?)
    - Rom 14:10-12 (Each one give an account of Himself!)
    - I Cor. 4:5
    - I Cor. 11:31-32

\*\*A picture of a proper relationship with our brothers

- 1 John 4:17----[see 1 JN. notes](#)

vs. 13-15

- Overview
  - vs. 13=Our “godship” happens in everyday affairs
  - vs. 14=Our frailty is obvious
  - vs. 15= make plans in humility
- Think about if you are the boss and you show somebody part of a plan and they “run ahead and try to control and direct it...this is what we do to God!
- Prov 27:1-2
- Luke 12:16-23 (24-34)

Vs 16

- The evil of arrogance
- Psalm 52:1-9

Vs. 17

- Disregard=Disobedience
- Sin is more than just doing what is wrong—IT'S FAILING TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT!

Why we have lost our saltiness...lack of following—Luke 14:25-35

A picture of God humbling man—Dan 4:28-37

Hebrew warnings..6:1-8 /10:23-31 / 12:15-17