

## Faith that Works // War and Submission

**James 4:1-12**, "What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions<sup>[a]</sup> are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, 'He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us'? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?" (ESV)

MATTHEW	SUBJECT	JAMES
5:10-12	Joy in the midst of trials	1:2
5:48	Exhortation to be perfect	1:4
7:7-11	Asking God for good things	1:5
7:11	God is the giver of good	1:17
5:22	Against anger	1:20
7:24-27	Hearers and doers of the word	1:22
5:3,5	Poor inherit the Kingdom	2:5
5:19	Keeping the whole law	2:10
5:7	Merciful receive mercy	2:13
7:16	Know them by their fruits	3:12
5:9	Blessings of peacemakers	3:18
7:7-8	Ask and you will receive	4:2-3
6:24	Friendship with the world	4:4
5:4	Consolation for mourners	4:9-10
7:1-5	Against judging others	4:11-12
6:34	Living for today	4:13-14
6:19	Moth and rust destroy	5:2-5
5:12	Prophets	5:10
5:33-37	Against oaths	5:12

**1 Corinthians 15:3-7**, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles." (ESV)

### War Within (V. 1-3)

**Matthew 26:41**, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (ESV)

**Galatians 5:16-25**, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." (ESV)

**1 John 5:14-15**, "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him." (ESV)

### Friendship with the World (V. 4-6)

**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. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

**Jeremiah 3:20**, *“Surely, as a faithless wife leaves her husband, so have you been faithless to me, O house of Israel,” says the Lord.*”

### Submit to God (V. 7-10)

When it comes to repentance, one of the practical ways to experience the realities of our choices that changes our hearts is asking these questions:

As the Holy Spirit convicts you of your sin, ask Him to show you the commands of God in Scripture that you broke by committing that sin.

Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal to you all the people you hurt through that sin.

Ask the Holy Spirit to uncover the true motives of your heart that led you to that sin.

Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the influences in your life that pointed you toward that sin.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you hindered God’s work and aided Satan’s cause through that sin.

- 1) Where have you been a source of divisiveness among believers? Fighting, quarreling?
- 2) Where has your pursuit of pleasure hindered your walk with Jesus?
- 3) Where have you aligned yourself - knowingly or unknowingly - with the ways of the world instead of with the ways of God?
- 4) The lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life - where do you tend to get stuck?
- 5) Where do you need to take steps today towards humility, submitting to God, resisting the devil, and repentance?