

Weekly Summary: Faith Works For Humility

What causes so many fights in our lives? Pride. James warns his fellow Christians about the dangers of pride and the blessings of humility in this classic section.

Homework Leading Into This Week: James 3:13-4:3

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Faith Works: A Journey Through James

Week 6: Faith Works For Humility

- ❖ James 3:13-14 - Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.
 - ◆ Envy: God owes me so I hate you.

- ❖ James 3:15-16 - Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

- ❖ Mark 8:33 - But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”
 - ◆ To prioritize my concerns over God’s concerns is demonic.

- ❖ James 3:17-18 - But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

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- ❖ James 4:1-2 - Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.
 - ◆ In every personal conflict, you aren't getting what you **want**.

- ❖ James 4:2 - You do not have because you do not ask God.

- ❖ James 4:3 - When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.
 - ◆ Pray: "God, here's what I **want**. Is it what you **want**?"

Points to Ponder

1. Describe conflict in your family of origin.
2. How do you tend to respond to conflict?
3. Read James 4:1. Is there any reasonable argument against this logic? Why do you resist the truth of this verse?
4. Read James 4:2. What are you killing when you don't get what you want? What do you want from him or her? What would happen if you recognized that the problem is that you are not getting what you want?
5. Why do we try to squeeze out of our family the things that only God can provide? What would happen if you asked God for what you want before you tried to get it out of others? What would it feel like in your heart? What would it feel like in your family?
6. As you close in prayer, everyone ask God for what you want.

Homework For Next Week: James 4:4-12

*"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less."
~ C.S. Lewis*

Worship Through Song at The CORE:

1. "Lifesong" - by Casting Crowns
2. "Boldly I Approach" - by Rend Collective Experiment
3. "Good Good Father" - by Chris Tomlin
4. "Made New" - by Lincoln Brewster