

FaithWorks

Week #7: Faith works satisfaction

James 4:1-10

(Summary of week #7) *Not Your Friend: Being a good friend is a good thing...unless it's with the world. James urges us to be friends with God and unfriend the sinful world.*

Mick Jagger - "I can't get no satisfaction!"

John Calvin - "The human heart is an **idol** factory."

- James 4:1-3 - *1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? 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. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

"We want to eat our **cake**, and **have** it too."

- James 4:4-5 - *4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?*
- Isaiah 55:2 - *Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?*

"You can't have the best of **both** worlds."

Video: God in a box

- James 4:6 - *6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."*

Faith's works **deep change**.

- James 4:7-10 - *7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

How to Change Deeply

1. **Submit** - _____
2. **Resist** - _____
3. **Renew** - _____
4. **Know** - _____

Points to Ponder

- 1) Why is it so hard to not be a “Sundayized” Christian? (someone who puts their faith in a box when they leave church). What one of the 8 steps do you need to employ this week to best help you overcome this?
- 2) Why is deep change so hard for Christians? Is it that they don’t know the law well enough or that they aren’t in love with the Gospel enough? Why did you answer the way you did?
- 3) What is the deep “idol” that has a hold of your heart right now or is the one you struggle with the most? What satisfaction do you believe it is or can offer you? How does James 4:6 help you remember what God wants you to know about the ultimate thing (and only thing that truly satisfies)?

Homework: James 4:13-17