

Sermon Notes 7/6/25

Spiritual Warfare

Guerra Espiritual

How can we win our spiritual battles?
¿Cómo podemos ganar nuestras batallas espirituales?

1. Let's consider the cause of _____.

Consideremos la causa de los _____.

James 4:1 (Santiago 4:1)

James 4:4 (Santiago 4:4)

James 4:7 (Santiago 4:7)

2. Let's pray with good _____.

Oremos con buenos _____.

James 4:3 (Santiago 4:3)

1 John 3:21-22 (1 Juan 3:21-22)

1 John 5:14-15 (1 Juan 5:14-15)

James 5:16 (Santiago 5:16)

Ephesians 6:10-11, 18 (Efesios 6:10-12, 18)

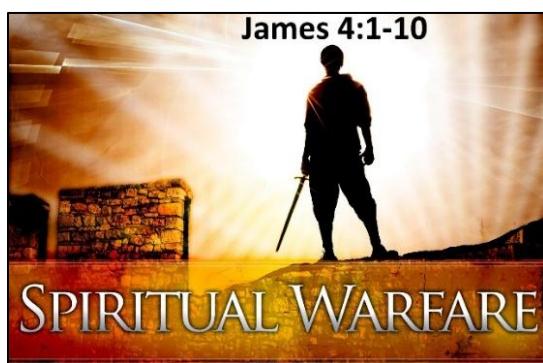
3. Let's be humble before the _____.

Seamos humildes ante el _____.

James 4:6 (Santiago 4:6)

James 4:7-8 (Santiago 4:7-8)

James 4:9-10 (Santiago 4:9-10)



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 7: July 6-13

James 4:1-10

The book of James was written to Christians who knew they belonged to Jesus (2:7). However, like many New Testament authors, James issued some harsh warnings to those believers who were not being faithful to their Lord. As Christians, we face spiritual battles every day. But sometimes we forget who the real enemy is. Sometimes we fight and quarrel with fellow believers. And sometimes our attitudes and behaviors are no different from the enemies of God. In James 4:1-10, the Holy Spirit gives us several commands that will help us to renew our allegiance to God and experience victory in our spiritual battles.

Read James 4:1-10

1. What is the first question James asked in this chapter? How is this question related to the last verse of chapter 3? (4:1)

Gary Holloway writes,

These are military terms: “wars” (*πόλεμοι, polemoi*) and “battles” (*μάχαι, machai*). James means them figuratively; his readers were not having pitched battles but were fighting and quarreling. Even today, church fights can be bitter and hateful. Such “wars” come from the envy of worldly wisdom and are a startling contrast to the peace brought by true wisdom that James just discussed (James 3:17-18). (Holloway, 94)

2. According to verse 1, what is the cause of our conflicts?

Holloway comments,

James says these external fights are the result of an internal battle. They come from the desire for personal pleasure (*ἡδονή, hedonē*). This word, from which we get “hedonism,” implies not the simple enjoyment of life but a mad dash for immediate pleasure that enslaves and separates one from God (cf. Luke 8:14; Titus 3:3; 2 Peter 2:13). (Holloway, 94)

3. What is the first reason James gives his readers to explain why they don’t have what they want? (4:2)
4. According to verse 3, why do we not receive everything we pray for?

Charles Swindoll observes,

God's promise of answering our prayers and giving us what we ask for must be governed by all the Bible's teachings about prayer. This isn't a "name-it-claim-it" kind of deal or a "gab-it-grab-it" theology. The apostle John helps balance our perspective on prayer: "Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight" (1 Jn. 3:22) and "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 Jn. 5:14). (Swindoll, 89)

5. What does it mean to have friendship with the world? How does that affect our relationship with God? (4:4)

Holloway explains,

"World" has many meanings in Scripture. Sometimes it refers to the creation (John 1:10; Romans 1:20). Sometimes it means the people of the world (John 1:29; 3:16) ... Many times, however, world refers to humans organizing themselves apart from God and his standards (John 8:23; 12:31). Christians must avoid being polluted by these worldly standards of worth (James 1:27; cf. 1 John 2:15-17). (Holloway, 97)

6. Verse 5 can be translated in different ways. Look at three or four different translations. Which translation do you think fits best with the context of the passage? Why?

7. To whom does God give "more grace"? (4:6)

8. What must we do to win our spiritual battles? (4:7-10)

Kent Hughes observes,

God's Word still speaks, just as it did in James' day, for in James 4:7-10 we find the antidote. This is a tidy unit consisting of a series of terse commands, beginning with the dominant call to submit to God and then giving three couplets of matching commands, and finally issuing a summary command. In the Greek, the language is even more clipped, so that the commands come in a jackhammer burst. James wants to so fire the souls of his people that they will swim triumphantly in the river of grace. May it be so for us as well! (Hughes, 164)

9. What does God do to us when we come near to Him for spiritual cleansing? (4:8)
10. What kind of attitudes and actions should we have in response to our sins? (4:8-9)
11. What will God do for us when we humble ourselves before Him? (4:10)

Holloway notes,

James calls us to buck popular opinion. Such counter-cultural Christianity can be lived only by the grace of God. We turn to God in humble repentance, resisting the devil by rejecting the predominant values of our culture. Only then will he accept us back in spite of our unfaithfulness and lift us up to be with him. (Holloway, 103)

12. Why do so many people argue and fight with family members?
13. How can we learn to pray according to God's will?
14. How do we know if we are being friends with the world in a bad way?
15. Why is God opposed to proud people?
16. What is the difference between sinful pride and a healthy sense of accomplishment?
17. How can we reduce our pride and develop our humility?
18. What helps you to submit to God even when you don't want to?
19. What can you do this week to draw near to God?
20. In what situations do you need to resist the devil this week?

Sources cited:

Holloway, Gary. *James & Jude*. College Press, 1996.
Hughes, R. Kent. *James: Faith that Works*. Crossway, 2015.
Swindoll, Charles. *Insights on James, 1 & 2 Peter*. Tyndale, 2014.