

James: Doing > Hearing
Down Is Up
 James 4:1-10

The meekness of godly wisdom is not nice; it's _____.

3 LIFE-THREATENING ENEMIES

1. **The Flesh (4:1-3)**

"your passions"

The word James uses is where we get our word, *hedonism*, to live for pleasure.

1 Timothy 6:17 *God made everything for our enjoyment.* God made us for pleasure. Life's greatest gifts and pleasures come from the hand of our Creator and Redeemer.

Psalm 16:11 *You (God) make known to me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures for evermore!*

We are to _____ things and _____ God and people. The problem comes when we get that _____.

"are at war within you"

Passions warring, not with each other, but with our own soul.

1 Peter 2:11 *Abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.*

The pride that keeps us from _____ in is the same pride that's _____ us in.

"you desire and do not have"

Our selfish desires try to grasp what we can never quite get.

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 *I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure...yet... everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind.*

The problem arises when we turn our legitimate need for pleasure into an _____. We turn pleasure into an _____, and we live by the dictum, "*If it feels good do it, demand it, even destroy to get it.*"

"you do not have because you do not ask"

We'd rather grab for ourselves what we want and what we think we deserve, than to trust God to give us what we _____ through prayer.

"you ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly"

If having it our own way is what drives our lives, even if we do ask God for something legitimate, it will not be granted, if we ask with _____.

Prayer is not getting _____ will in heaven. It's about getting _____ will on earth

"you murder...fight and quarrel"

Matthew 5:21-22 Following Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, James treats the sins of hatred and strife in the same category as *murder*.

2. **The World (4:4-5)**

"world"

James is NOT saying we must not be friends with _____ in the world, but rather we must not adopt the world's _____.

“adulterous...friendship with the world” (cp. **John 14:30; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Galatians 1:4; 1 John 5:19**)

James is talking about believers carrying on an “illicit affair” with the values of secular society. The sins of adultery and murder are as much a matter of the heart as they are of one’s hands; they can be committed _____, without doing them _____.

4:5 “He yearns jealously over **“the spirit”** that he has made to dwell in us?”

Three main views:

1. God yearns jealously for his Holy Spirit indwelling us, when we use our bodies to sin.
2. God yearns for our spirit as a heart-broken spouse yearns for an unfaithful mate. (cp. **Exodus 20:4-5; 34:12-14**)
3. The spirit of fallen man yearns with envy.

The point of all three is the same: Our flesh and the world are hostile to God, and God opposes those who embrace either over him. The really good news: God has more _____ than we have _____. (**Romans 5:20; John 1:16**)

3. **The Devil (4:6-10)**

God’s grace gives us the power to _____ our enemies—the power to live free of our flesh, unfriend the world, and stand strong against the devil. That grace is available only to the _____.

3 LIFE-SAVING PROMISES
(embedded in 10 humbling commands)

Submit yourselves to God!	Resist the devil! <u>PROMISE #1 FOR ENEMY #3</u> <i>he will flee from you</i>
Draw near to God! <u>PROMISE #2 FOR ENEMY #2</u> <i>he will draw near to you</i>	Cleans your hands...purify your hearts!
Be wretched (grieve), mourn, weep!	Turn your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom!
Humble yourselves before the Lord! <u>PROMISE #3 FOR ENEMY #1</u> <i>he will exalt you</i>	

We will never know the depths of God’s _____ until we acknowledge the depths of our _____. (cp. **Joel 2:12-13**)

_____ + _____ = **THE POWER TO OVERCOME**

Psalm 139:23-24

*Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*

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We are to **use** things and **love** God and people. The problem comes when we get that **backwards**.

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Passions warring, not with each other, but with our own soul.

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The problem arises when we turn our legitimate need for pleasure into an **end in itself**. We turn pleasure into an **idol**, and we live by the dictum, *"If it feels good do it, demand it, even destroy to get it."*

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God’s grace gives us the power to **overcome** our enemies—the power to live free of our flesh, unfriend the world, and stand strong against the devil. That grace is available only to the **humble**.

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HUMILITY + GRACE = THE POWER TO OVERCOME

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