

C.J. Mahaney

SESSION 3 | Cravings and Conflicts

- **“All of our desires and passions are like an armed camp within us, ready at a moment’s notice to declare war against anyone who stands in the way of some personal gratification on which we have set our hearts.” – Alec Motyer**
- **“One of the joys of biblical ministry comes when you are able to turn on the lights in another person’s dark room. People usually don’t see their desires and lusts. Souls are cured as the ignorant and self-deceived are disturbed by the light of God’s analytic gaze and then comforted by the love that shed substitutionary blood to purchase the inexpressible gift. I have yet to meet a couple locked in hostility (and the accompanying fear, self-pity, hurt, self-righteousness) who really understood and reckoned with their motives. James 4:1-3 teaches that cravings underlie conflicts. Why do you fight? It’s not ‘because of my wife/husband...’ it’s because of something about you. Couples who see what rules them-cravings for affection, attention, power, vindication, control, comfort, a hassle free life-can repent and find God’s grace made real to them, and then learn how to make peace.”
– David Powlison**
- **“With penetrating insight James provides us with a powerful analysis of human conflict. Verbal argument, private violence, or national conflict-the cause of them all can be traced back to the wrongful lust to want more than we have, to be envious of and covet what others, have, whether it be their position or their possessions.” – Doug Moo**

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