



Go for God!

“Draw Near to God & He will Draw Near to You”

James Chapter 4

~ James Chapter 4 will ask us three questions:

> Question #1 – WHAT CAUSES SEPARATION FROM GOD? (v1-4)

(v1-3) “*Wars and fights*” (the NIV reads “fights and quarrels”) come from the **FLESH**, such as:

(1) **LUST** (Ephesians 4:17-24)

(2) **MURDER** (Cain murdered Able because of **envy and jealousy** – Genesis 4:8; David had Uriah killed because of lust – 2 Samuel chapters 11 & 12.)

(3) **COVETOUSNESS** (Luke 12:13-21)

(4) **SELFISH PLEASURES** (Jesus said in Matthew 15:19-20 - *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man*). Wrong motives assure **unanswered prayers**.

(v4) James warns of being an **adulterer** with the world. Warren Wiersbe writes, “A Christian gets involved with the world gradually. First, there is “*the friendship of the world*” (James 4:4). This results in being “**spotted**” by the world (James 1:27) so that areas of our lives meet with the approval of the world. Friendship leads to **loving the world** (1 John 2:15-17), and this makes it easy to **conform to the world** (Ro. 12:2). The sad result is being **condemned with the world** (1 Cor. 11:32), our souls saved “*yet as by fire*” (1 Cor. 3:11-15).

> Question #2 – ARE YOU SUBMISSIVE TO GOD? (v5-10)

(v5) The **Spirit of God** in us desires our affections, our love, so that we would fulfill the commandments of Christ; in **Matthew 22:37-40** - *Jesus said to him, "You shall **love** the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself.'* On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

- **John, the beloved, writes in 1 John 2:15-17** - *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides **forever**.*

(v6) In spite of our adulterous affections God still offers **GRACE** to those that will **HUMBLE** their hearts in **REPENTENCE**!

- **STOP THE PRIDE!** - **Proverbs 11:2** - *When pride comes, then comes **shame**; but with the humble is wisdom.* **Proverbs 13:10** - *By pride comes nothing but **strife**, but with the well-advised is wisdom.* **Proverbs 16:18** - *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a **fall**.* **Proverbs 29:23** - *A man's pride will bring him **low**, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.*

- **BEWARE** - Chuck Swindoll in his book *Strengthening Your Grip* writes, *Let's admit it—not until we stop blaming will we start enjoying health and happiness again! Pride Always Blames Others: (Pride poisons our relationships.)*

> **Don't play the "BLAME GAME":**

Blame never affirms, it assaults.

Blame never restores, it wounds.

Blame never solves, it complicates.

Blame never unites, it separates.

Blame never smiles, it frowns.

Blame never forgives, it rejects.

Blame never forgets, it remembers.

Blame never builds, it destroys.

(v7) Dear Christian please, "**SUBMIT TO GOD. RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU.**"

(v8-10) **HOW DO WE DRAW NEAR TO GOD SO THAT HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO US?**

1st - **CLEANSE YOUR HANDS!**

2nd - **PURIFY YOUR HEARTS!**

3rd - **STOP BEING DOUBLE-MINDED! (James 1:8)**

4th - **LAMENT, MOURN, AND WEEP!**

5th - **HUMBLE YOURSELF!**

> **Question #3 – WHAT IS YOUR LIFE? (v11-17)**

(v11-12) Don't speak evil of each other and stop judging one another.

(v13-16) Beware of presumption, beware of high mindedness, beware of worldliness, beware of your will instead of God's will; beware of arrogance and boasting.

(v17) If we know to do good, but don't do it it's sin. Stay **HUMBLE, TRUST GOD, LIVE according to HIS WILL** and let's **GO FOR GOD!** (Matthew 6:25-34)

- Remember this simple song and make it your prayer:

Make me a servant

Humble and meek

Lord let me lift up

Those who are weak

And may the prayer

Of my heart always be

Make me a servant

Make me a servant

Make me a servant today