

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:1-10

Let's Talk About It

James exposes that many of our conflicts and inner struggles come from desires within us that are out of alignment with God. Instead of turning to God, we often try to satisfy these desires on our own, which leads to tension, frustration, and distance from Him. James calls this a divided heart, and he invites us to stop pursuing the world's way and return to God. The solution isn't trying harder, but humbly surrendering, resisting what pulls us away, and drawing near to Him. As we do, God promises to meet us with grace, not condemnation. Ultimately, this passage calls us to a posture of humility, where we let go of control and allow God to realign our hearts and lives.

James 4:1-10

- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Read James 4:1-10. What does James say is a root cause of conflict? Why do you think our desires can lead to tension in our relationships?
- What does James mean by "friendship with the world"? How is that opposed to God? How does humility play a role in restoring our relationship with God?
- Where do you see conflict or tension in your life right now? What might be underneath it? Are there desires or areas where you've been trying to control things instead of trusting God?
- What would it look like for you to truly "draw near to God" in this season? Where might pride be keeping you from surrendering to God?

Take a Step

- What is one area of your life you need to surrender to God this week?
- How can you intentionally create space to draw near to God this week (prayer, Scripture, slowing down)?

Here's My Prayer

God, thank You for showing me what's in my heart. Help me to let go of control, humble myself before You, and trust You with every part of my life. Draw me closer to You and align my heart with Yours as I learn to walk in surrender. In Jesus' name, amen.