

James 4: The War Within: From Pride to Humility

11/30/25 Calvary Chapel Titusville

Pastor Paul Andris

Where do wars and fights [come] from among you? Do [they] not [come] from your [desires for] pleasure that war in your members? (James 4:1 NKJV)

He's saying, the reason you're at war with people is because you're at war inside.

I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (Romans 7:21-23 KJV)

A quick gut-check: when we're angriest, what do we feel is being threatened?

You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. (James 4:2 NKJV)

Prayerlessness is functional atheism. It's living like God is irrelevant.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend [it] on your pleasures. (James 4:3 NKJV)

Your assurance rests on God's Word and God's character, Not on your circumstances.

"The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], And desperately wicked; Who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV)

Your feelings are not a trustworthy narrator...The cross is.

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (James 4:4 NKJV)

You can be committed to God yet still be drawn to the world.

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies [under the sway of] the wicked one. (1 John 5:19 NKJV)

To befriend the world is to adopt its values.

Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? (James 4:5 NKJV)

God's jealousy is not petty insecurity. It's covenant love.

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6 NKJV)

Grace has a posture that flows toward: humility.

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7 NKJV)

Spiritual warfare begins with surrender.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [you] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [you] double-minded. (James 4:8 NKJV)

Double-mindedness is trying to keep a foot in two kingdoms.

Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and [your] joy to gloom. (James 4:9 NKJV)

Sin is not a naughty habit, rather a thief of joy and a wound to love.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (James 4:10 NKJV)

God doesn't humiliate you to destroy you. He humbles you to restore you.

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. (James 4:11 NKJV)

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If it tears down rather than builds up, James says it's evil speech.

There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another? (James 4:12 NKJV)

There is one Judge. And we are not Him.

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; (James 4:13 NKJV)

James is anti-presumption.

whereas you do not know what [will happen] tomorrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. (James 4:14 NKJV)

So teach [us] to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12 NKJV)

It's not "How long will you live?" It's "What will you live for?"

Instead you [ought] to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." (James 4:15 NKJV)

Everywhere Paul went, he spoke in terms of God's will.

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit [who is] in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV)

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the [life] which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20 NKJV)

But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. (James 4:16 NKJV)

James says the issue is not just immaturity; it's pride.

Proverbs 16:9 says a man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps. (NKJV)

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do [it], to him it is sin. (James 4:17 NKJV)

For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. (Luke 12:48b NKJV)

The same God who opposes the proud lifts up the humble.

So let's respond the way James calls us to respond,