

The Book of James (Study)

Week 4

James 4 addresses the dangers of **worldly desires, pride, and self-sufficiency** while calling believers to **humility, submission to God, and dependence on His will**. James warns that quarrels come from selfish desires, emphasizes the need to **draw near to God**, and reminds us that boasting about tomorrow is foolish because life is fleeting. A true relationship with God is marked by humility, repentance, and trust in His plans.

Day 1: The Root of Conflict – Selfish Desires (James 4:1-3)

Focus: Worldly desires lead to conflict.

- **Read:** James 4:1-3
- **Key Verse:** *James 4:2* – “You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.”
- **Reflection:**
 - What does James say is the source of quarrels and conflicts?
 - How do selfish desires affect your relationship with others and with God?
 - Are there areas in your life where you are trying to fulfill desires apart from God?
- **Application:** Instead of striving for what you want, take time to pray and seek God’s guidance, trusting Him to provide what is best.

Memorize:

Choose a verse to meditate on throughout the day, reminding yourself to seek God’s will over personal desires.

Day 2: Friendship with the World vs. Friendship with God (James 4:4-6)

Focus: Humility before God is key to His grace.

- **Read:** James 4:4-6
- **Key Verse:** *James 4:6* – “But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.’”
- **Reflection:**
 - What does it mean to be a “friend of the world”?

- Why does God oppose the proud but give grace to the humble?
 - In what areas of your life do you need to humble yourself before God?
- **Application:** Surrender an area of pride or worldly thinking to God today. Choose humility and trust in His grace.

Memorize:

Find a verse from today's passage and let it remind you to walk in humility before God.

Day 3: Drawing Near to God (James 4:7-10)

Focus: True repentance and submission to God.

- **Read:** James 4:7-10
- **Key Verse:** *James 4:8* – “Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”
- **Reflection:**
 - What does it mean to submit to God and resist the devil?
 - Why is drawing near to God so important for spiritual growth?
 - How can humility and repentance lead to a deeper relationship with Christ?
- **Application:** Take intentional time today to seek God—through prayer, worship, or confession. Trust that as you draw near, He will meet you.

Memorize:

Select a verse from today's reading and focus on truly drawing closer to God.

Day 4: Do Not Judge Others (James 4:11-12)

Focus: God alone is the Judge.

- **Read:** James 4:11-12
- **Key Verse:** *James 4:12* – “There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?”
- **Reflection:**
 - Why does James warn against speaking against others?
 - How can judging others harm relationships and our walk with Christ?
 - In what ways can you replace judgment with grace and love?
- **Application:** Choose to speak words of encouragement and grace today rather than criticism or judgment.

Memorize:

Commit a verse from this passage to memory, focusing on seeing others through God's grace rather than judgment.

Day 5: Trusting God's Will Over Our Plans (James 4:13-17)

Focus: Life is fleeting, so we must rely on God's will.

- **Read:** James 4:13-17
- **Key Verse:** *James 4:15* – “Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.’”
- **Reflection:**
 - What is James teaching about making plans without considering God?
 - Why is it important to acknowledge God's will in every part of life?
 - How can you develop a habit of seeking God's guidance in daily decisions?
- **Application:** Before making any plans today, take a moment to pray and surrender them to God's will.

Memorize:

Choose a key verse that reminds you to trust in God's plans rather than your own.