### James

## Chapter 4

1So, where are all these fights and wars among you coming from?  
  
Aren’t they the result of battles that are being fought in your body parts over [sensual] pleasures?  
  
2You want, but you can’t have!  
  
You’re jealous... And murderous... But that doesn’t get you anything!  
  
You’re fighting and waging war, but you haven’t received because you haven’t asked.  
  
3Then when you do ask, you don’t receive, because you’re asking for the wrong reasons, since all that you’re really interested in is pleasure!  
  
  
4Adulteresses, don’t you know that if you’re a friend of the world you’re an enemy of God?  
  
So, whoever wants to be a friend of this world is putting himself down as God’s enemy!  
  
5Does the scripture say that the spirit within us...  
  
 ‘...lusts with envy...’ [perhaps referencing Proverbs 27:4]  
  
...for no reason?  
  
6Now, the loving care that He sends to us is greater than of all that, for we were told:  
  
 ‘Jehovah opposes the proud,  
 But shows loving-care to the humble.’  
 [Proverbs 3:34, LXX]  
  
7So, let’s do what God says… Resist the Opposer and he’ll run from you!  
  
8But draw closer to God and He will draw closer to you!  
  
  
So, wash your hands, you sinners! And those of you who are undecided should purify your hearts!  
  
9Otherwise you’ll be crying, groaning, and miserable… Your laughter will be turned into groaning and your joy will be turned into sadness!  
  
10Yes, humble yourselves in the eyes of Jehovah and He will lift you higher!  
  
  
11Brothers, stop complaining about each other, because those who speak against or judge their brothers are speaking against and judging the Law.  
  
And if you’re judging the Law, you aren’t someone who’s under it, you’re its judge… 12And there’s just one Lawgiver and Judge who can either save or destroy.  
  
So, who [do you think] you are to be judging your neighbors?  
  
13And those of you who say:  
  
 ‘Today or tomorrow I’m going to travel to this city or that, and I’ll spend a year there doing business and making profits...’  
  
14You don’t even know what’s going to happen in your life tomorrow! For you’re just a mist that appears for a little while and then disappears!  
  
15Shouldn’t you rather be saying...  
  
 ‘If it’s Jehovah’s will, I’ll live and do this or that?’  
  
16But now you’re taking pride in things that you just assume to be true, and being proud over such things is wickedness. 17Because, whenever you know what’s right and you don’t do it, that’s a sin to you!