

Come Near to God

James 4:1-12

Key Verse: 8

* BECAUSE YOU DO NOT ASK GOD (4:1-6)

1. What is the root of fights and quarrels? (1-2a) Where does the spiritual battle take place? What are the two reasons we don't have what we want? (2b-3) Why shouldn't God's people struggle with men because of their desires?
2. In Verse 4, why does James use the phrase 'adulterous people?' (Jeremiah 31:31-34) What did Jesus say about God and the world? (Matthew 6:24, John 15:18-19) What does it mean, "Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God"? (4) How are you most likely to fall into loyalty to this "friend"? (money? pleasures? fame? power?)
3. Can we love both God and the world? What happens if we try to love both? (1 John 2:15-16) How can we avoid loving the world? (James 4:6, Proverbs 3:34)
4. What does God give us when we ask him with pure and humble hearts? (6) Can self-assertiveness and humility coexist? Where does pride come in?

* RESIST THE DEVIL (4:7-12)

5. Read verse 7. Who is the devil? Why does James tell us to flee from him rather than fight him with our human strength? How can we win victory over the devil? What five things does James tell us to do in order to come near to God? (7-10)
6. What is James saying in Verses 11-12? (Matthew 7:1-5) What is wrong with judging others? (11-12) Why should we keep the law instead of judging it? What is the difference between slander and judging and how do we stand against it? Of the 'seven deadly sins,' which are we guilty of when we judge others? (Psalm 94:1-2, Proverbs 6:16-19, 8:13, 11:2, 13:10, 16:18)