

The Study of James: Contend for the Faith **Conflict with God and Man - James 4:1-10**

The Source of Conflict with Man:

"1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You 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. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

(James 4:1-3)

- 1) Internal struggle for gratification.
- 2) Miscalculated strategy for gratification.
- 3) Misunderstood purpose of prayer.

The Source of Conflict with God:

"4 You 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. 5 Or 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"?"

(James 4:4-5)

- 1) Friendship with the world.
- 2) Hostility toward God.
- 3) Lack of intimacy with God.

Exalted above the Conflict:

"6 But he gives more grace. Therefore, it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

(James 4:4-10)

- 1) **The limited distribution of grace.**

Grace is God's power to overcome conflict with _____.

Grace is distributed only to the _____.

- 2) **The prerequisites for the reception of grace.**

Resist _____

Draw near _____

Cleanse _____

Purify _____

Humble yourself _____

Discussion Questions:

1. Share with your group some of the internal struggles you want to overcome, James 4:1.
2. What is your strategy to overcome these internal struggles, James 4:2-3?
3. Go through the prerequisites for the reception of grace with your group, James 4:6-10.
4. How can humility result in exaltation, James 4:10?