

# James

## Chapter Four

**FAITH COMES BY HEARING:** Read Chapter Four

### **SUMMARY: Verses 1-17**

1. James takes into account that our salvation should produce in us a lifestyle of righteous living. James states that when we don't control our lives and the sinful desires it causes all types of problems.
2. We must learn to not just live for selfish lustful desire. Such living robs us of relationship with others. If lusts go uncontrolled and run rampant in our lives and follow selfish and sinful living chaos will ensue.
3. We are to live differently than those who don't know God (the world). To continue living as the world does sets your life as an enemy of God. You can't be friends with God and friends with the world. The Christian faith does not allow for divided loyalty. To love the world is to hate God.
4. Divided loyalty between God and the world gives you the nature of being an adulterer or adulteress. In short, James gives us the Scriptural truth that this type living is like cheating on God. But God jealously longs for you because He created you and He longs for your love and faithfulness.
5. Despite the lustful tendencies we all have, despite our constant envying and quarreling, God gives us much grace. Grace is granted to the humble, those who turn to God but God opposes the proud. How so? To live prideful is to turn away from God's grace and turn to your own selfish desires. And that God opposes. God cannot honor the one who is proud.
6. In this battle of loyalty to love we must understand how to fight for that love. We must live submitted to God. We must learn how to resist the devil. This proves that the devil is the evil being behind the world's ways, behind selfish ambition, and behind a life of pride. But you can resist the devil and he has to flee from you.
7. Humility and submission means you allow grace to change your actions, your heart, your mind, and your attitude towards your brothers and sisters in Christ.
8. The goal of living is not to follow dreams and aspirations. The goal isn't to just enjoy life. The goal of life is to fulfill the will of God. His plans for your life should but your plans for your life. Don't let it be a war between His plans and your plans. Fight to fulfill His plans. Don't use God as a tool to fulfill your plans.
9. Sin is defined as knowing the good to do and not doing it. In this definition we all prove we are sinners and in much need of grace, humility, and the will to resist lusts.

### **REFLECTION**

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. Why is selfish living considered sin?
3. Why would James consider divided loyalty between God and the world as an act of adultery?
4. How do you define the word 'humility'?
5. What is the real issue with living prideful? Why would God oppose such?
6. Why would living like the world make you an enemy of God?
7. Define this phrase: The goal of life is to fulfill the will of God.

### **APPLICATION**

1. How do you live differently than the world?
2. What are some things you could do, change, or improve to show your loyal love for God?
3. How can you stay true to doing the good you know to do?
4. How do you practically resist the devil in your own battles?

