

**Agape House of Worship  
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

**Book Study: Epistle of James  
Part 8: James 4:1-12: Submitting Yourself to God**

**Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2022  
Facilitator: Minister Ivette Berrios**

<b>Breakdown of the Study of the Book of James</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Key Texts</b>	<b>Topic</b>
10/12/2022	Part 1 - Overview of the Book of James	Overview of the Book of James
10/19/2022	Part 2 - James 1:1-18	Responding to Suffering and Trials
10/26/2022	Part 3 - James 1:19-27	Listening, Doing and Speaking
11/2/2022	Part 4 - James 2:1-12	Warning Against Favoritism
11/9/2022	Part 5 - James 2:14-26	Relationship of Faith and Works
11/16/2022	Part 6 - James 3:1-12	Taming the Tongue
11/23/2022	Part 7 - James 3:13-18	Reacting with Wisdom
11/30/2022	Part 8 - James 4:1-12	Submitting Yourself to God
12/7/2022	Part 9 - James 4:13 - 5:6	Warning Against Boastfulness
12/14/2022	Part 10 - James 5:7-20	Patience and Prayer

**James 4:1-12 “SUBMITTING TO THE LORD”**

Who is James speaking to?

He is speaking to two groups of people:

1. To the early Christian church that was primarily made up of Jewish Christians.
2. To you and me.

Read James 4:1-12 NIV

*Vss 1-3 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 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. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

The first thing James does is ask a question: What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? James is suggesting that there is conflict with one another.

James has a very pastoral way of explaining that sinful passions lead to battles within the church. This is shown in the parallel sentence structure in vss 1-3 The structure looks like this: *FACT + RESULT*

Fact: You Desire and Do Not Have → Result: So You Murder

Fact: You Covet and Cannot Obtain → Result: So You Fight and Quarrel

Fact: You Do Not Have → Reason: Because You Do Not Ask

Fact: You Do Ask → Result: But Do Not Receive → Reason: Because You Ask Wrongly, To Spend It On Your Passions.”

Vss 1-3 are a reiteration of what he says in James 3:14-16 that worldly wisdom leads to selfish ambition and envy and left unchecked, envy causes disorder and other evils.

*\*James knows that many of his flock live by the world's wisdom (carnality) but wants those who he shepard to live by God's wisdom.*

*Vs. 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*

Here James accuses them of Adultery. The charge here is not physical adultery but spiritual adultery, not physical fornication but spiritual fornication because as Christians believers are married to Christ. They are married to Jesus, but they run after other Gods. This endangers their marriage relationship with Christ.

This clearly is the language of Old Testament prophets who charged Israel with Adultery. Just as faithless Israel sought to worship both The Lord and the Canaanite gods of fertility and prosperity, so Christians attempt to pursue both God and the World.

James does not tell them that they are playing with fire, he clearly tells them that what they are doing is adultery. *Jeremiah 3:20 "But like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me, O house of Israel"*

Very few Israelites set out to worship pagan gods alone. They intended and did worship The Lord and pagan deities, in order to gain the benefits of both.

But just as no husband tolerates a wife who takes on a lover to gain the benefits of two men, so The Lord will not tolerate Israel's lovers.

*Vss 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously (greatly desires- pursue with love) longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."*

The Lord's Grace is so amazing that because He knew we would quarrel and fight, He gave us a means to come back and desire Him instead. The Spirit He caused to dwell in us longs to have a relationship with Him alone - He has given us the Provision (Jehovah Jireh!)

When we resist the means which he has provided, He opposes us, because what we are really saying is: I got this, I can do this my way - the world's way. (Jesus said: John 15:19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, **you do not belong to the world**, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.) 1 John 2:4 says, Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

*Vss 7-10 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

<b>Submit to God</b>	<b>Resist</b>	<b>Draw Near</b>	<b>Cleanse &amp; Purify</b>	<b>Lament &amp; Mourn</b>	<b>Humble Yourself</b>	<b>He Will Lift You Up</b>
<i>submit to one's control</i>	<i>oppose</i>	<i>to join with</i>	<i>purify / consecrate</i>	<i>be wretched / wail - grieve</i>	<i>make low - assign lower rank</i>	<i>raise to dignity / prosperity</i>

*Vss 11-12 11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 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? To speak evil against a brother (fellow Christian) is to speak evil of the Law and judges the law.*