

A STUDY OF JAMES—PRACTICAL LIVING

LESSON 4

“The root cause of every war, internal and external, is rebellion against God.”

PRIDE PROMOTES STRIFE

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

(Romans 12:3, NKJV)

“Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.” (Romans 12:3, NLT)

Inward Conflict—This is brought about when our sinful desires for pleasure and our desire for God’s will collide. This occurs within us, because the Holy Spirit yearns for the things of God.

The old nature, with its desire for the things of the world, materialism if you will, is what leads to fighting, murder, and war.

“We ask amiss”—impure motives/selfish reasons

God is not obligated to answer our prayers with an affirmative response. He will not say yes to our selfish desires while His will ought be our desire. Often

our prayers are only to meet our selfish desires, and God will not answer such prayers that seek benefits for only the one praying.

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19, NKJV)

LOVE—THE ANTITHESIS TO PRIDE (unselfish)

“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40, NLT)

A. Vertical Relationships with God

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know him. Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins is breaking God’s law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is. Dear children, don’t let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as

Christ is righteous. But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So, they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God." (1 John 3:1-10, NLT)

B. Horizontal Relationships with Persons

"So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God. This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. We must not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because Cain had been doing what was evil, and his brother had been doing what was righteous. So, don't be surprised, dear brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead. Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them."
(1 John 3:10-15, NLT)

**OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER WILL NEVER RISE ABOVE
OUR OWN RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHRIST!!!**

HUMILITY CURES WORLDLINESS

Definition—a modest or low view of one’s own importance—to feel small in the scheme of things—to see yourself as simple or insignificant—not self-centered

A. Submission to God

1. Abandon selfish pride.
2. Put on the whole armor of God. (Ephesians 6:11-18)
3. We ought to long and labor to be holy.
4. “In our times of sorrow, we must not challenge God’s sovereignty, or impugn His justice, or arraign His wisdom, or distrust His love. The spirit of Christian submission says, “Let us rejoice in our tribulations.”

B. Resistance Toward the Devil

1. To be subject to God, requires resistance to God’s great enemy. Any temptations the enemy throws at us are to be rejected.
2. The more one’s character mirrors the image of God, the more likely he or she is to be a hater of evil and the Evil one. Such fighting or quarreling that results ought to be reserved for Satan and his works and not fellow believers.
3. Resistance does not mean to engage Satan. Christians are not to dispute or parlay with him. Doing so, exposes us to the possibility of

Satan establishing footholds in our lives. Instead, we have the **POWER OF THE TRUTH, THE POWER OF FAITH, AND THE POWER OF PRAYER**, which will silence the enemy's artillery.

C. Draw Near to God

1. The best way to resist Satan is to “draw near to God.” We draw near when we **PRAY**. We draw near to God when we **LONG FOR HIM**. We draw near to God when we **LIVE A GODLY AND PURE LIFE**. This means letting go of sin for we cannot hug sin and God at the same time.

2. Repentance—of both private and public sins

DO NOT JUDGE A BROTHER

A. Speaking Evil

B. Judging One Another

DO NOT BOAST ABOUT TOMORROW

A. No Promise of Tomorrow