

Faith That Works

OVERCOMES/EXTINGUISHES WORLDLINESS

10/21/07



Text: James 4:1-6

“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You 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. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You 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. ⁵Or 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”? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (ESV)

Peter said we should always be ready to give an answer – *“Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you”* (1 P. 3:15). *Q.* - Do people ask us about our hope? If not, could it be because we look as if we hope in the same things they do?

The warning given by James is spelled out with powerful clarity in verse 4 – *“...friendship with the world is enmity with God.”* What happens when we cuddle up with the world? CONFUSION & CONFLICT.

Confusion...

Conflict....

1. O _____ – v.1a

Cross references: John 13:34-35; Acts 4:32; Philippians 1:27

APPLICATION =

2. O _____ – v.1b-3
Here it is.... YOU, YOU, YOU.

APPLICATION =

3. God – v.4-6

APPLICATION =

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION THOTS

“...quarrels and fights among you...” Is there someone you need to extend grace to and forgive OR humbly go to and seek to be forgiven?

How long can one hold a grudge? Check out the story of Ahithophel (grandfather of Bathsheba) in 2 Samuel 15-17.

You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. Do you talk to God at all? When you do, what do you talk about? Do you ask only to satisfy your desires? Do you seek God’s approval for what you already plan to do?

NOTE: Prayers are not automatically answered with a yes from God. Although God gives many promises about the power of prayer (see Matthew 7:7-11; 17:20; Mark 11:23-24; Luke 18:1-8; John 14:13-14), these promises hinge upon the attitude of the person praying—how in tune he or she is with God.

How can Christ-followers have *friendship with the world* when they have been called out of the world?

How can you & I achieve victory over the clutches of worldliness and increase a growing faith that works? SEE v.6. Cross reference: John 1:16 (NASB). ☺