



The Book of James: Chapter 4:1-12

- **PRAYER:** Father, reveal the depth and understanding of Your Word to us tonight!

New Living Translation (NLT)	English Standard Version (ESV)	Passion Translation (PAS)
<p>¹ What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ² You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.</p> <p>⁴ You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. ⁵ Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. ⁶ And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."</p> <p>⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. ⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. (James 4:1–12 NLT-SE)</p> <p>(cont. on next page)</p>	<p>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. 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"? 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.</p> <p>¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (James 4:1–12 ESV)</p>	<p>¹ What is the cause of your conflicts and quarrels with each other? Doesn't the battle begin inside of you as you fight to have your own way and fulfill your own desires? ² You jealously want what others have so you begin to see yourself as better than others. You scheme with envy and harm others to selfishly obtain what you crave—that's why you quarrel and fight. And all the time you don't obtain what you want because you won't ask God for it! ³ And if you ask, you won't receive it for you're asking with corrupt motives, seeking only to fulfill your own selfish desires. ⁴ You have become spiritual adulterers who are having an affair, an unholy relationship with the world. Don't you know that flirting with the world's values places you at odds with God? Whoever chooses to be the world's friend makes himself God's enemy!</p> <p>⁵ Does the Scripture mean nothing to you that says, "The Spirit that God breathed into our hearts is a jealous Lover who intensely desires to have more and more of us"?</p> <p>⁶ But he continues to pour out more and more graced upon us. For it says, God resists you when you are proud but continually pours out grace when you are humble."</p> <p>⁷ So then, surrender to God. Stand up to the devil and resist him and he will turn and run away from you. ⁸ Move your heart closer and closer to God, and he will come even closer to you. But make sure you cleanse your life, you sinners, and keep your heart pure and stop doubting. ⁹ Feel the pain of your sin, be sorrowful and weep! Let your joking around be turned into mourning and your joy into deep humiliation. ¹⁰ Be willing to be made low before the Lord and he will exalt you!</p> <p>(cont. on next page)</p>

- **KEY WORDS:**

New Living Translation (NLT)	English Standard Version (ESV)	Passion Translation (PAS)
<p>¹¹ Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. ¹² God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor? (James 4:1–12 NLT-SE)</p>		<p>11 Dear friends, as part of God's family, never speak against another family member, for when you slander a brother or sister you violate God's law of love. And your duty is not to make yourself a judge of the law of love by saying that it doesn't apply to you, but your duty is to obey it!! ¹² There is only one true Lawgiver and Judge, the One who has the power to save and destroy—so who do you think you are to judge your neighbor? (James 4:1–12 PASSION)</p>

- **KEY WORDS...**• **Passions**

- S G2237 **hedone** 5x
- **Mounce...**pleasure, gratification; esp. sensual pleasure, Lk. 8:14; Tit. 3:3; Jas. 4:3; 2 Pet. 2:13; a passion, Jas. 4:1*
- **Vines...**“pleasure,” is used of the gratification of the natural desire or sinful desires (akin to hedormai, “to be glad,” and hedeos, “gladly”), Luke 8:14; Titus 3:3; Jas. 4:1, 3, RV, “pleasures” (KJV, “lusts”); in the singular, 2 Pet. 2:13. See Lust.¶]

• **World**

- S G2889 **kosmos** 186x
- **Mounce...**(1) pr. order, regular disposition; ornament, decoration, embellishment, 1 Pet. 3:3; (2) the world, the material universe, Mt. 13:35; the world, the aggregate of sensitive existence, 1 Cor. 4:9; the lower world, the earth, Mk. 16:15; the world, the aggregate of mankind, Mt. 5:14; the world, the public, Jn. 7:4; in NT the present order of things, the secular world, Jn. 18:36; the human race external to the Jewish nation, the heathen world, Rom. 11:12, 15; the world external to the Christian body, 1 Jn. 3:1, 13; the world or material system of the Mosaic covenant, Gal. 4:3; Col. 2:8, 20 ~ universe; world.
- **Vines...**primarily “order, arrangement, ornament, adornment” (1 Pet. 3:3, see Adorn, B), is used to denote (a) the “earth,” e.g., Matt. 13:35; John 21:25; Acts 17:24; Rom. 1:20 (probably here the universe: it had this meaning among the Greeks, owing to the order observable in it); 1 Tim. 6:7; Heb. 4:3; 9:26; (b) the “earth” in contrast with Heaven, 1 John 3:17 (perhaps also Rom. 4:13); (c) by metonymy, the “human race, mankind,” e.g., Matt. 5:14; John 1:9 [here “that cometh (RV, ‘coming’) into the world” is said of Christ, not of “every man”; by His coming into the world He was the light for all men]; v. 10; 3:16, 17 (thrice), 19; 4:42, and frequently in Rom., 1 Cor. and 1 John; (d) “Gentiles” as distinguished from Jews, e.g., Rom. 11:12, 15, where the meaning is that all who will may be reconciled (cf. 2 Cor. 5:19); (e) the “present condition of human affairs,” in alienation from and opposition to God, e.g., John 7:7; 8:23; 14:30; 1 Cor. 2:12; Gal. 4:3; 6:14; Col. 2:8; Jas. 1:27; 1 John 4:5 (thrice); 5:19; (f) the “sum of temporal possessions,” Matt. 16:26; 1 Cor. 7:31 (1st part); (g) metaphorically, of the “tongue” as “a world (of iniquity),” Jas. 3:6, expressive of magnitude and variety.

• **Enmity**

- S G2189 **echthra** 6x
- **Mounce**...enmity, discord, feud, Lk. 23:12; Gal. 5:20; alienation, Eph. 2:14, 16; a principle or state of enmity, Rom. 8:7; Jas. 4:4*
- **Vines**...from the adjective echthros (see Enemy) is rendered “enmity” in Luke 23:12; Rom. 8:7; Eph. 2:15-16; Jas. 4:4; “enmities,” Gal. 5:20, RV, for KJV, “hatred.” It is the opposite of agape, “love.”

• **Humble**

- S G5011 **tapeinos** 8x
- **Mounce**...low in situation; of condition, humble, poor, mean, depressed, Lk. 1:52; 2 Cor. 7:6; Jas. 1:9; met. of the mind, humble, lowly, modest, Mt. 11:29; Rom. 12:16; 2 Cor. 10:1; Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5*
- **Vines**...primarily signifies “low-lying.” It is used always in a good sense in the NT, metaphorically, to denote (a) “of low degree, brought low,” Luke 1:52; Rom. 12:16, KJV, “(men) of low estate,” RV, “(things that are) lowly” (i.e., of low degree); 2 Cor. 7:6, KJV, “cast down,” RV, “lowly”; the preceding context shows that this occurrence belongs to (a); Jas. 1:9, “of low degree”; (b) humble in spirit, Matt. 11:29; 2 Cor. 10:1, RV, “lowly,” KJV “base”; Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5. See Base, Cast, Note (7), Degree (Note), Lowly.

• **Submit**

- S G5293 **hypotasso** 38x
- **Mounce**...to place or arrange under; to subordinate, 1 Cor. 15:27; to bring under influence, Rom. 8:20; pass. to be subordinated, 1 Cor. 14:32; to be brought under a state or influence, Rom. 8:20; mid. to submit one’s self, render obedience, be submissive, Lk. 2:51; 10:17 (be) subject; submit.
- **Vines**...primarily a military term, “to rank under” (hupo, “under,” tasso, “to arrange”), denotes (a) “to put in subjection, to subject,” Rom. 8:20 (twice); in the following, the RV, has to subject for KJV, “to put under,” 1 Cor. 15:27 (thrice), 28 (3rd clause); Eph. 1:22; Heb. 2:8 (4th clause); in 1 Cor. 15:28 (1st clause), for KJV “be subdued”; in Phil. 3:21, for KJV, “subdue”; in Heb. 2:5, KJV, “hath ... put in subjection”; (b) in the middle or passive voice, to subject oneself, to obey, be subject to, Luke 2:51; 10:17, 20; Rom. 8:7; 10:3, RV, “did (not) subject themselves” [KJV, “have (not) submitted themselves”]; 13:1, 5; 1 Cor. 14:34, RV, “be in subjection” (KJV, “be under obedience”); 15:28 (2nd clause); 16:16 RV, “be in subjection” (KJV, “submit, etc.”); so Col. 3:18; Eph. 5:21, RV, “submitting yourselves” (KJV, “submitting, etc.”); v. 22, RV in italics, according to the best texts; v. 24, “is subject”; Titus 2:5, 9, RV, “be in subjection” (KJV, “be obedient”); 3:1, RV, “to be in subjection” (KJV, “to be subject”); Heb. 12:9, “be in subjection”; Jas. 4:7, RV, “be subject” (KJV, “submit yourselves”); so 1 Pet. 2:13; v. 18, RV, “be in subjection”; so 3:1, KJV and RV; v. 5, similarly; 3:22, “being made subject”; 5:5, RV, “be subject” (KJV, “submit yourselves”); in some texts in the 2nd part, as KJV. See Obedient, Submit.

- **THE DANGERS OF WORLDLINESS...**

"A true revival means nothing less than a revolution, casting out the spirit of worldliness and selfishness, and making God and His love triumph in the heart and life." ~ Andrew Murray

"How much of these destructive elements, esteemed by men, does the devil bring into the church, until all the high, unworldly and holy aims, and heavenly objects of the church are retired and forgotten?" ~ E.M. Bounds

"The true man of God is heartsick, grieved at the worldliness of the Church, grieved at the toleration of sin in the Church, grieved at the prayerlessness in the Church. He is disturbed that the corporate prayer of the Church no longer pulls down the strongholds of the devil." ~ Leonard Ravenhill

"If you don't see the greatness of God then all the things that money can buy become very exciting. If you can't see the sun you will be impressed with a street light. If you've never felt thunder and lightning you'll be impressed with fireworks. And if you turn your back on the greatness and majesty of God you'll fall in love with a world of shadows and short-lived pleasures." ~ John Piper

– **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

- Verses 1-3 focus on the battle that goes on inside of us that is driven by our desires. Assuming that all of us share this struggle, choose one specific “desire” and describe your personal internal battle.
- What is James referring to when he says we “ask wrongly?”
- Verse 6 says that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” What does it feel like when God is opposing you? What is the quickest way to end the opposition?
- Judgementalism in the church can be very toxic. How you you go about cultivating a culture of honor in the church that would encourage discernment, yet discourage judgementalism?