

**BOOK OF JAMES**  
**DEALING WITH STRIFE-PART 3**  
**JAMES 4:6-12**

**Introduction**

We've recently seen in this series of messages how James stated in *James 3:14-15* that **bitter envying and strife** in our hearts doesn't descend from above but rather comes from that which is **earthly, sensual, and devilish!** (i.e. It is ungodly!)

In this Chapter we've seen how James continues with this thread of dealing with strife in our life and elaborates more on it.

*WE SAW WHERE STRIFE COMES FROM (4:1-4)*

- A. *Strife Comes From The Lusts That War Within Us!(Vs. 1b)*
- B. *The Results Of Lusts.*
  - 1. *It Causes An Unsatisfied Longing In Some Who Never Obtain!*
  - 2. *It Causes An Unsatisfied Longing In Some Who Do Obtain Some Things But Don't Obtain Satisfaction!*
  - 3. *Lusts And The Resulting Strife And Selfishness Hamper Our Prayer Life!*
  - 4. *Strife and selfishness cause wrong prayer motives.*
  - 5. *Strife and selfishness lead to spiritual adultery. (4:4)*

*WE THEN BEGAN TO LOOK AT HOW DO WE GET BEYOND THE STRIFE IN OUR LIFE. (Vs 5-6)*

- A. *Believers Must Know That Though The Spirit In Us (Our Human Spirit or The Flesh) Lusteth To Envy, The Spirit Of God That Dwells In Us Yearns Over Us With A Holy Jealousy! (Vs. 5)*
- B. *Believers Must Know That God Gives The Humble Believer Grace And More Grace, But He Resists The Proud! (Vs 6)*

**LET'S READ OUR VERSES AGAIN...VS 6-12**

*WE LOOKED LAST TIME THAT WE MUST DEAL WITH STRIFE BY LOOKING TO GOD FOR HIS GRACE!*

- I. *GRACE FROM GOD TO DEAL WITH STRIFE (OR ANY OTHER THING IN OUR LIVES) TAKES SELF-HUMBLING! (VS 6)*
  - A. *"God Resisteth The Proud..."*
  - B. *"...But Giveth Grace Unto The Humble."*

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**God gives grace sufficient to overcome our lusts.**

**Grace is not given to the proud...i.e. those who are arrogant and self-sufficient.**

**Grace is given to the humble.**

II. *THE ATTITUDE AND ACTION NEEDED FOR VICTORY! (Vs 7-10)*

- A. *Submission To God! (Vs 7a)*
- B. *Resisting Satan! (4:7b) How?*
  - 1. *Make Satan The Object Of Our Strife!*
  - 2. *Be Strong In The Lord!*
    - a. *Be Filled With The Holy Spirit!*
    - b. *Put On The Whole Armor Of God!*
    - c. *Use Your Offensive Weapons!*
      - 1) *Use Of The Word!*
      - 2) *Use The Power Of Prayer!*
- C. *Draw Nigh To God! (4:8a)*

Be occupied with Christ. This is the positive side of resisting the Devil and winning over strife and selfishness.  
Christ has made it possible for us to draw nigh to God.

**NOW TONIGHT, WE CONTINUE LOOKING AT THE ATTITUDE AND ACTION NEEDED FOR VICTORY!**

- D. **Cleanse Your Hands And Purify Your Hearts. 4:8b**
  - 1. **Sin Not Dealt With In Ones Life Causes Hardening!**

The reference to Believers as sinners here is particularly strong for that reason!  
*Hebrews 3:12-13--" 12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

The context of this warns them of being like the Children of Israel who did not enter the Promised Land!

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2. **Purity Is Necessary In Order To Submit To God!**  
*Psalms 24:3-4 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.*
3. **Remember Sin Hinders One's Fellowship With God And Prevents Answers To Prayer!**  
*Isaiah 59:1-2 "1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."*
4. **Hands Speak Of Our Actions—The Things We Do! Hearts Speak Of Our Motives—Why We Do!**  
The question is not only **WHAT** are we doing, **but WHY** are we doing what we are doing?

If our **MOTIVES** are wrong, then our **ACTIONS** will be wrong!

**Double minded** refers to **being of two minds** or **two emotional patterns**. Trying to be focused on God and self at the same time won't work!

This leads to hypocrisy!

- E. **Be Afflicted And Mourn And Weep. (4:9)**  
We are to genuinely have sorrow for sinful affections and practices that are contrary to God.

Sadly, many only choose to do this only when their sinful affections and practices affect themselves negatively!

1. **Be Afflicted!**  
Be sensitive to God's dealing with you! (*Hebrews 12:5*)

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2. **Mourn and weep!**  
Just make sure you mourn and weep over the right things!
  - a. **Mourn and weep over how your sin has grieved the LORD and His Holy Spirit!**
  - b. **Mourn and weep over how your sin has affected others! (Believers and unbelievers!)**
3. **Consider the Scriptures in relation to having the wrong attitudes about sin!**
  - a. *Proverbs 10:23—"It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom."* (Sin is NOT a game!)
  - b. *Joel 2:13 "And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he [is] gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. (God is not looking at the outward displays of sorrow, but the inward!)*
4. **Godly sorrow is a necessary attitude for true repentance!**  
Sinning against God and others is no laughing matter!  
*Psalm 51:17—"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."*  
  
*Psalm 34:18—"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."*

- F. **Back To Humility! (4:10)**  
*Humble yourselves IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD...*  
Again, God looks for a humble heart, not outward show.

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*...AND HE SHALL LIFT YOU UP!*

**Self-humbling brings lifting up (exalting) from the LORD!**

*1 Peter 5:6– “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”*

*Luke 14:11– “{For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.}*

**G. Precautions Against Backsliding Through Evil Speaking Must Be Taken To Avoid Strife. (4:11-12)**

- 1. We cannot help forming opinions of others, but the opinions should be tempered by love and mercy.**

It is **not** always best to express our opinions to others.

- 2. Let’s look at the manifestations of evil speaking:**

**a. Evil speaking can be manifested by lying**

- 1) Lying is forbidden.**

*Exodus 20:16– “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”*

- 2) Lies come from Satan.**

*John 8:44– “{Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.}*”

- b. Evil speaking can even be manifested by the needless telling of some truths!**

We need to T-H-I-N-K before we speak!

Have you seen the acrostic for this?

It is to help us THINK about if we need to be running our mouth or not.

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- 1) Is It True?**

We’ve already established that we need to be people of truth with our speech!

- 2) Is It Helpful?**

Does the LORD want us to be hurtful or helpful with our speech?

- 3) Is It Inspiring?**

By inspiring, consider is what you’re going say designed to pull somebody up or push somebody down?

- 4) Is It Necessary?**

Is this something that really needs to be said or am I just flapping my jaws needlessly?

- 5) Is It Kind?**

*Ephesians 4:31-32— “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

- 3. Let’s look at the motives for evil speaking:**

- a. Maliciousness, hate, and revenge are motives.
- b. Envy is a motive.
- c. Self seeking is a motive.
- d. Vanity is a motive.
- e. The desire to talk is a motive.

- 4. What are the Scriptural reasons for abstaining from evil speaking.**

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- a. **The fact that we are brethren is a reason. (4:11b)**
  
- b. **The fact that we are judging the law given by God is a reason. (4:11c)**

This is talking about the Royal Law of love!  
*Love thy neighbor as thyself.*

*James 2:8—“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.”*

- c. **The fact that we are to be doers and not judges is a reason.**  
*Romans 2:1— “Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.”*

*Matthew 7:3-5*

- d. **The fact that ALL CHRISTIANS will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ is a reason.**  
*Romans 14:10 “But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”*

**Conclusion**

So, in all of this preaching these three times about DEALING WITH STRIFE IN YOUR LIFE—How are you doing? Has the Holy Spirit touched your heart in some area you need to work on in any of this? If so, don't let it go! Deal with it—RIGHT NOW!