

The War Within (James 4:1-10)

Spiritual Warfare – Part 5

Life Church St. Louis – August 2, 2015

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV2011) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

James 1:14-15 (NIV2011) but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

1. Selfish _____ lead to arguments

James 4:1 (NIV2011) What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

1A. _____ results in unmet needs

James 4:2 (NIV2011) 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.

1B. _____ prayers don't get answered

James 4:3 (NIV2011) When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

2. Don't be friends with the _____

James 4:4 (NIV2011) 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.

2A. Be _____ to God alone

James 4:5 (NIV2011) Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

2B. Be _____ and receive God's grace

James 4:6 (NIV2011) But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

3. Submit to God and _____ the devil

James 4:7-8a (NIV2011) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.

3A. Repent of being _____

James 4:8b-9 (NIV2011) Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

3B. _____ yourself and receive God's help

James 4:10 (NIV2011) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

The War Within (James 4:1-10) Study Guide

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Intro. What is the danger in seeing spiritual warfare as exclusively external and not within ourselves (Ephesians 6:12)?

In what ways does James 1:14-15 depict spiritual warfare as being internal?

What do you think are the biggest internal spiritual battles that believers today face?

If a believer loses the war within, how does it affect others around?

1A. How does the internal battle with selfish desires lead to arguments and quarrels (James 4:1)?

1B. In what ways does lack of prayer cause quarrels (James 4:2)?

1C. Give examples of what praying with wrong motives would be (James 4:3).

1D. How can prayer reduce arguments and lead to better relationships?

2A. What does it mean to be a friend of the world (James 4:4)?

2B. How can a believer be faithful to God alone (James 4:5)?

2C. What does pride have to do with being a friend of the world (James 4:6)?

2D. How does a person's Facebook page reflect if they're a friend of the world or a friend of God?

3A. Why is submitting to God the first step before we can resist the devil (James 4:7-8a)?

3B. What does it mean to be double-minded (James 4:8b-9)?

3C. How can a person repent of being double-minded (James 4:8b-9)?

3D. Why does it take humility to repent (James 4:10)? What is God's promise to those who humble themselves?

3E. Why must every activity and decision of a believer advance God's kingdom (Matthew 6:33)?

3F. How would you explain to someone that there are no neutral activities in life?