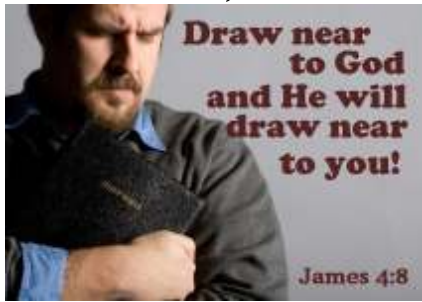


Faith, Humility and Restoration



God's Conflict Resolution
The real struggle in conflicts comes out of a heart of pride. That is why James emphasizes the importance of God's "greater grace" for He opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

A. The **Character of Conflicts** James 4:1

1. Some are long term battles: **Wars**
2. Some are short term skirmishes: **Fights (quarrels)**
When we are at war inwardly...
...we will also be at war outwardly

B. The **Cause of Conflicts** James 4:1

1. They come from 'pleasures' we pursue that 'wage war' in our lives 2 *Cor 10:3-5*
2. 'Pleasure' here is the Greek word 'hedone' where we get our word 'hedonism' (*pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief good in life*)
Pleasures may seem desirable *Gen 3:6*
Pleasure may control my life *Titus 3:3*

C. The **Consequences of our Conflicts** James 4:2-4

1. Hinders spiritual growth :2 *you do not have..*
2. Destroys relationships with others :2
'commit murder...fight and quarrel'
3. Ineffectual prayer :2b-3 *ask amiss...*
4. Creates hostility with God :4

D. The **Cure for Conflicts** James 4:5-12

1. Grow in 'greater grace' **with God** :5-8
 - a. Serve God alone :5-6 *The Spirit who dwells in us...*
 - b. Choose to submit to God and resist the devil. 4:7
 - c. Draw near to God 4:8
The promise is that as we submit to God and go to Him in prayer—He will draw near to us (*bring restoration*)
Cleanse your hands—our actions
Cleanse your heart and mind—our motives
2. Grow in 'greater grace' **with others** :9-12
 - a. Remove any obstacle which may hinder healing
Jam 4:9 "Be miserable, mourn, weep..." (repentance)
 - b. Humble yourself to God's control of any relationships.
Jam 4:10; Psalm 126:6
"Humble yourselves in the presence of God..."
 - c. Do not speak against or judge another *Jam 4:11-12*
We are called to build up NOT put down!
Speak 'truth in love' Eph 4:15

More Grace

James 4:1-12 NKJV

- :1** Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?
- :2** You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.
- :3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.
- :4** Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- :5** Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?
- :6** But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "**GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**"
- :7** Therefore submit 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** Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.
- :10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
- :11** Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of 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 one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?