

James 4

1. What is this chapter primarily about?
2. According to verse 1, what was happening among the Jewish saints?
3. Some say that the "you" in verse 1 means "you Jews" (in general), and not the Jewish Christians: However:
 - a. Verse 2 says that they failed to acquire what they needed because they did not "ask" (in prayer). Whose prayers are answered by God? (see John 9:31 and 1 Peter 3:12 for help)
 - b. Verse 4 warns the readers against being "friends of the world." What does this suggest about their spiritual state? Were they children of God or not?
4. What caused the quarrels and brawls among them?
5. Turmoil, and even violence, are the result of people trying to satisfy their desires (lusts) by taking advantage of others. What does the Bible teach about how to obtain the things that we need (or want)? **see Eph. 4:28; Acts 20:34 for help:**
6. What were the two failings with respect to prayer? (vs. 2, 3)
7. How does James use the terms "adulterers" and adulteresses?" (cp. Hos. 3:1)
8. What happens to the Christian's relationship with God when he befriends the world?
9. Is James quoting a particular "scripture" in verse 5? Or is he describing the general tenor of Old Testament scriptures on the subject of envy? **(The following passages are helpful if you are interested in further study:**

Eccl. 4:4; Job 5:2; Prov. 14:30; 27:4; Gen. 26:14; 30:1; 37:11; Ps. 73:3)

10. What does God do to the proud?
11. What does God do to the humble? (**2 things** - see also vs. 6&10)
12. What will happen if we “resist” the devil?
13. What will happen if we “draw near” to God?
14. What “laughter” was to be turned into mourning? (see vs. 1-3 for help)
15. What 3 branches of government are summed up in God? (v. 12)
16. What attitude and practice is addressed in verses 13-16?
 - a. Is it wrong to make business plans? Explain:
 - b. Is it wrong to make a profit?
 - c. What component were they leaving out? (cp. Lk. 12:16-21)
 - d. What about man is compared to a “vapor?” Why?
17. What is sin, according to v. 17? How else is sin defined in Scripture? (**see Rom. 14:23; 1 John 3:4 and 5:17**)