



REVIEW: Living Faith Confronts Our Desires (James 4:1–6)

Reflect on what James reveals about the real source of conflict—and how selfish desires not only divide us from others but distance us from God.

Read:

Take time to slowly read these passages:

- **James 4:1–3** – The source of quarrels and the failure of selfish prayer
- **John 15:7** – Effective prayer flows from abiding in Christ
- **Psalms 66:18** – Unconfessed sin hinders prayer
- **1 John 2:15–17** – Love for the world pushes out love for the Father
- **Romans 7:15–25** – The war within the believer

Reflect:

- Where in my life am I experiencing conflict—and what might be at the root of it?
- What have my recent prayers revealed about the condition of my heart?
- In what ways have I tried to be a "friend of the world" while still claiming loyalty to Jesus?
- How does it impact me to know that God yearns jealously for my full affection?
- Is there an area of pride that may be resisting God's grace in my life?

Apply:

- Humble Yourself - James makes it clear: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. That means grace begins with surrender.
- Identify one desire God is asking you to let go of this week.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where pride might be keeping you from fully submitting to God.
- Choose one act of humility this week—something hidden, sincere, and sacrificial—and offer it to the Lord.

Pray:

Come Back to the Heart of God

- **Confession:**

"Lord, I confess the selfish desires that have pulled me away from You. I've blamed others when the real battle was inside me."

- **Dependence:**

"Thank You for offering more grace than I deserve. I cannot change my heart without You. Fill me with wisdom from above."

- **Surrender:**

"Make me humble. Cleanse my hands. Align my desires with Yours. Let my life reflect submission, not striving."

PREVIEW: Living Faith Draws Near to God (James 4:7–10)

James now shifts from the source of conflict to the invitation of restoration. He urges us to submit, resist, draw near, repent, and humble ourselves before God.

Read ahead:

- **James 4:7–10** – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you
- **Matthew 5:9** – The blessing of peacemakers
- **1 Peter 5:5–6** – Humility as the path to exaltation

Think Ahead:

- What does it mean to truly submit to God?
- Where in your life do you need to resist the enemy's influence?
- What would it look like to return to God with mourning, repentance, and joy?

Journal Prompt:

- Where do I sense God inviting me to come near?
- What's keeping me from drawing closer?
- What might it look like this week to humble myself before Him?