

# FAITH WORKS

LIVING THE FAITH WE CLAIM - JAMES

## Faith Submits and Resists

James 4

- James turns to our passions: who are you submitting to and what are you resisting?
- 3 steps that lead a Christian to be a slave to his passions:
  - Friendship with the world
  - Love with the world
  - Conformity to the world

- 3 enemies that prefer us to not submit to God:
  - Flesh
  - Satan
  - World
- Faith fights the good, persistent fight against these enemies
- Without faith, we have no hope of defeating them

# James 4:1-5

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? **2** You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. **4** You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

- Submit Your Pleasures to the Lord
- When the Church has an easy time in culture, worldliness creeps in
- Pleasures= hedonism= the sole or chief good in life is pleasure/happiness
  - Seeking yourself, affirming yourself, realizing yourself
- This kind of self-focused living creates disunity with yourself, God and other Christians

- What is your relationship with other believers?
- You have faith?
  - Are you so consumed with your wants, your needs, your feelings than you are about your brothers'/sisters'?
  - That is selfishness, not faith; it is of the world

- 2 signs our pleasures are self-centered
  - We don't pray - we don't need, trust or call out to God for satisfaction
  - Wrong motives when we pray - we ask for the wrong things or for good things as our main source of satisfaction
- The point of prayer isn't to manipulate God or to talk God into being generous
  - It's to submit my pleasures to His will

# James 4:11-12

**11** Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it*. **12** There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

- Submit Your Relationships to God
- Others become more important to me than I am
- It's a lie to think you can submit to God and have broken relationships with believers (1 John 4:20)
- Do you think the best about Christians or conclude the worst about them?

# James 4:13-17

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, *you ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

- Submit Your Plans to the Lord
- James isn't condemning planning:
  - He's confronting the ignorant arrogance that makes us think we can breathe or live or plan independent of God
- Life is a mist, an uncontrollable vapor- out of our control!
  - Housing Bubble Crash/Dot Com Crash

# James 4:5-10

**5** Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? **6** But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." **7** Submit therefore 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** Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

- Resist the Devil

- Don't believe or repeat his lies (John 8:44)
- Don't live like his accusations are true (Rev. 12:10)
- Don't give in to his intimidations (1 Peter 5:8)
- Don't give him entry into your life (Eph. 4:27)

- God's grace and our pride are always enemies
- Don't see grace as a reward for humility; humility positions us to receive grace (Guzik)
- Are you submitting your pleasures, relationships and plans to the Lord?
  - He is jealous for you!
  - He has grace for you!
- Are you convicted of your self-centered life?
  - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you; He gives a GREATER grace!