

James 4

v1

"Are they not a fruit, even of your lusts that are ever warring in your bodily members?"

- Psalm 16:2 "I say to the Lord, You are my Lord; I have no good beside or beyond You."

- Romans 7:18 "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:"

- We need to be and we must be so aware and cautious of our flesh. Its only desire is lust and that lust is selfishness in its most raw and violent form.

Unbridled/uncontrolled lust is far worse than we could comprehend. It will make us do far more than rationality can control. If we feed that desire it will grow into a monster that we have no control over. The only way to defeat it is to starve it by the power of The Cross and in Jesus name. Drastic measures need to be taken!

v2-3

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

- Lust is such a poison of selfishness that we can't even pray for good things without ourselves being the sole focus!

- To be given over to lust is to live in a poisoned cocoon of self satisfaction. First, I must satisfy my flesh, then others can be thought of... if it makes me feel good to do so.

- God will not give us of His precious blessings to feed our lust!

v4-5

"friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

- Matthew 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other;"

- The more that we fall in love with The Lord the more we will abhor it's wickedness/rebellion and naturally hate the things of the world.

- Friendship is a mutual relationship. It is an enjoyment of each other. This reinforces that temptation itself is not the problem, but a willing joining of yourself to wickedness. Those who feed their flesh and join themselves to this rebellious, God hating world are enemies of God!

- The spirit within us does lust to envy... Our flesh is a very real thing that we have to control and "hold under subjection". The flesh is our responsibility to discipline and starve. We can only do this by the power of God's word and His life within us. Feed the Spirit and starve the flesh.

v6-10

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

- There needs to be a cry in the heart. A desperate plea to submit to God's way and His will. Surrender to His authority; cast yourself upon His love; cast yourself upon His forgiveness and mercy. Confess your sin; confess your weakness; confess your guilt and shame; confess His worthiness, confess His authority and holiness.

- Resist the devil and his temptations. Put a distance between you and the distractions. Remove them from your life. Remove the food that the flesh feeds on. Fast your body and starve the flesh! This is a responsibility that we will be held accountable for. We MUST do our part! In Jesus name!

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."

- Come close to God. Draw near to Him in prayer, in fellowship, in His word and in praising. Do all that you can to come closer to Jesus! There is a responsibility on our part! There is action that we have to perform. We have to show through our actions a heart that yearns for Him.

- What a precious promise to cling to. I am so grateful for this verse. Oh Lord, I do desire to draw closer to you, I do desire to know you more. Lord I come before you. Early will I seek you; As the deer pants for the water brook...

- The Lord has given everything for us... It is us who must now draw near to Him. Leave your house/comfort.

"Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts" / "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep:"

- Confess your sins and bring your shame, guilt and sin before The Lord. Only by exposing the filth can it be washed.

- So feel that Godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10). Feel that shame and conviction. Mourn your foolishness and rebellion. Weep and understand the shame and consequences of your selfishness/wickedness. Consider how you've affected other's lives and mourn...

- Ephesians 5:26 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" – Cleanse your hands by His blood and His word.

- Romans 12:2 "but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind," – Be renewed by The Holy Spirit and the indwelling of His word.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up".

- Surrender to His authority. Submit to His will. He is worthy. He alone is worthy of our service, our praise, our time and affection.

- Understand that He is the Creator and we are His creation. Learn to fear and reverence Him, ask Him to teach you His fear.

- Come low before The Lord.

- When The Lord lifts you it is with such comfort, peace, joy and confidence! It is on sure feet. Let The Lord do the lifting!

- When we lift ourselves it is only pride and brings nothing but bad fruit.

v11-12

"Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaks evil of his brother, and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, and judges the law:"

- This verse is specifically about speaking evil of good men and good/lawful things that they have done. Who are we that we should judge men who have been judged righteous by the law? Do we consider ourselves to know better than the law?

- Let us be so careful of the subtlety of being dismissive or speaking negatively about our brothers with no righteous cause. We are speaking about those who have been Born Again, those who walk with Jesus, who are living in His righteousness and freedom.