

James 4:1-5

1-2. Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from **your DESIRES for PLEASURE that WAR in your members?** 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.

- **James 5:5-6** " You have _____ on the earth in _____ and _____; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of _____. You have condemned, you have _____ the just; he does not resist you."
- **Galatians 5:16-17** "I say then: 'Walk in the _____, and you shall _____ fulfill the _____ of the _____. For the flesh _____ against the _____, and the Spirit _____ the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."
- **Romans 7:23** "But I see another law in my _____, **WARRING** _____ the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my _____."
- **Romans 6:13** "And do not _____ your _____ as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but _____ yourselves to _____ as being alive from the dead, and your _____ as _____ of righteousness to _____."

Definition: "Your DESIRES for PLEASURE that WAR" - We are too quick to blame the devil for our problems many times, **rather than examining ourselves to see what EVIL still LURKS in our own SOULS and in our FLESH - the physical body.** When James speaks about the **"DESIRES for PLEASURE that WAR in your members"** he is speaking about leftovers and hangovers from our old sin nature that still reside in our fleshly body, and in our minds, if we do not renew our minds with the word of God. It is **a constant BATTLE or WAR** to keep the flesh from being in control. Yes, the devil certainly does know our weak points and what "buttons to push" in order to tempt us, and sometimes it is the "fiery darts of the evil one" (Eph. 6:16), and we must extinguish them by putting up the "shield of faith." Other times, it is just that **we are ALLOWING our CARNAL MIND and fleshly emotions to carry us away** (see Isaiah 64:6 - "our iniquities, like the wind, CARRY US AWAY"). Iniquity means **DOING OUR OWN WILL, or GOING OUR OWN WAY** (see Isaiah 53:6). **The way to fight this is to SUBMIT your mind, will and emotions to God, and present your BODY to Him** as a living sacrifice. **The transformation in your life** will come as your mind is renewed with the word of God, and your body is surrendered to the Lord completely.

- **I Peter 2:11** "Beloved, I _____ you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly _____ which _____ against the _____."
- **II Corinthians 10:3-5** "For though we walk in the _____, we do not _____ according to the flesh. For the weapons of our _____ are not carnal (merely human), but _____ in _____ for pulling down of strongholds; casting down arguments (imagination), and every high thing that exalts itself _____ the knowledge of God, bringing every _____ into captivity (taking control of) to the _____ of _____."
- **Romans 12:1-2** "I beseech you (beg you) therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you _____ your _____ as a _____ sacrifice, _____ and acceptable to _____, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the

_____ of your _____ that you may prove what is that
_____ and acceptable and _____ will of God."

Definition: "As SOJOURNERS and PILGRIMS, abstain from FLESHLY LUSTS" -
A sojourner is one who is only here for a temporary visit. Pilgrim is a person who travels about; a wanderer. By calling us "sojourners and pilgrims" it means we are not going to be on this earth forever in our fleshly bodies, but are just passing through, on our way to God's eternal kingdom. To "**abstain from FLESHLY LUSTS**" means to **STAY AWAY (abstain) from the sins of the flesh, and the things our old nature liked to do before we were born again.** Is it possible for a Christian to fall back into those old fleshly lusts? Of course it is possible, but **it should NOT be where we LIVE and STAY**, because we are only passing through temporarily, and God has better things for us. If you find you have fallen back into some old sins of the flesh, repent, confess it to God (I John 1:9), and He will cleanse and restore you.

Definition: "MEMBERS" - Individual parts of the BODY, such as HANDS, FEET, TONGUE, EYES, etc. We have the POWER to CHOOSE to let our body parts be used for the glory of God, as **His INSTRUMENTS or TOOLS** of righteousness, or as INSTRUMENTS or TOOLS for sin.

- **Romans 6:19** "I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your _____. For just as you presented your _____ as _____ of _____, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your _____ as slaves of righteousness for _____."
- **Matthew 26:41** "Watch and pray, lest you enter into _____. The _____ indeed is willing, but the _____ is _____."

Definition: "You MURDER and COVET" - Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 5:21-22 that **the underlying ATTITUDE of the HEART carries the same guilt as actual murder**, and we know from facts throughout all of history that anger, jealousy, coveting and envy are all prime motives for murder. The very first murder of all human history, that of **Cain killing his brother Abel, was motivated by PRIDE, selfishness and ENVY, which later turned into full-blown anger and murder.** God gave him a chance to repent (Genesis 4:3-8), but Cain refused to come to God in humility by bringing an animal for a blood sacrifice, and instead wanted to "show off" the crops he had grown. Cain was the original one to mirror the words of the song, "**I Did It My Way!**"! God refused Cain's sacrifice, but instead of "ruling over" the wrong emotions and passions of his flesh, Cain turned on his brother Abel in ENVY and ANGER, because his brother was obeying God and bringing the correct kind of sacrifice, and murdered him.

- **Genesis 4:3-8** "And in the process of time it came to pass that _____ brought an offering of the _____ of the _____ to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected _____ and his offering, but He did _____ respect _____ and his offering. And _____ was very _____, and his countenance fell (the expression on his face). So the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you _____? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, _____ lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should _____ over it.' Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up _____ Abel his brother and _____ him."
- **Matthew 5:21-22** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not _____,' and whoever _____ will be in danger of the

- judgment. But I say to you that whoever is _____ with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment....."
- **Galatians 5:19-21** "Now the _____ of the _____ are evident, which are: _____, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, _____, sorcery, _____, contentions (arguments), jealousies, outbursts of wrath (anger), _____ ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, _____, drunkenness, revelries (partying, sexual orgies), and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

3. You ASK and DO NOT RECEIVE, because you ASK AMISS, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

- **I John 3:22** "And whatsoever we _____, we _____ of _____, because we _____ His _____, and do those things that are _____ in His sight."
- **I John 5:14-15** "Now this is the _____ that we have in Him, that if we _____ anything _____ to His _____, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we _____, we know that we _____ the petitions that we have _____ of Him."
- **I Peter 3:12** "For the eyes of the Lord are on the _____, and His ears are open to their _____; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."
- **Psalms 66:18** "If I regard _____ in my heart, the Lord will _____ hear; but certainly God has heard; He has _____ to the voice of my _____."

Definition: "You ask and DO NOT RECEIVE, because you ask AMISS" - To "ask amiss" means to ask with wrong motives, which in this verse are SELFISH motives - "that you may spend it on your pleasures." **We must pray with RIGHT MOTIVES**, which means not praying with only ourselves in mind. When praying, God looks to see how the answer to your prayer will bring honor and glory to Him, and the furthering of His kingdom. One example of wrong motives in praying might be a wife praying, "Lord, please save my husband, because then he will be a better husband, treat me better, get along with the kids better, and bring home more money." The better motive would be, "God, I want You to save my husband! I pray that he might be all that You want him to be, that he will be the spiritual leader of our household and set a good example for our children, and that **You will be honored and glorified by his life** and the example of obedience he sets." If you aren't sure about your motives, "HUMBLE yourself under the mighty hand of God" and ask Him to change your heart and purify your motives.

- **I Peter 5:5-6** "...for God resists the _____, but gives grace to the _____, _____ yourselves, therefore, under the mighty _____ of _____, that He may exalt you at the proper time...."

4-5. 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.** Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, '**The Spirit who DWELLS in us YEARNs JEALOUSLY**'?

- **I John 2:15-17** "Do not _____ the _____ or the _____ of the _____. If anyone _____ the _____, the love of the _____ is not in him. For all that is in the _____ - the _____ of the _____, the _____ of the eyes, and the _____ of life - is not of the Father

but is of the world. And the _____ is passing away, and the _____ of it; but he who does the _____ of God abides forever."

- **Romans 8:5-7** "For those who live according to the _____ set their minds on the things of the _____, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be **carnally** (fleshly) minded is _____, but to be Spiritually minded is _____ and _____. Because the carnal mind is _____ against God; for it is not subject to the _____ of God....."
- **Philippians 3:17-19** "Brethren, join in following my _____, and note those who so _____, as you have us for a _____. For many walk (live their lives), of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the _____ of the _____ of Christ; whose end is destruction, whose _____ is their belly (appetites), and whose glory is in their shame - who set their mind on _____ things."

Definition: "A FRIEND of the WORLD makes himself an ENEMY of God" - "Enmity" means hostility, being an **enemy**. Why would being a "friend" of this world be so horrible and make you an enemy of God? It is because "The WORLD" in this context refers to the whole system of thinking among the UNSAVED people of the world, who are **under Satan's control. Satan is called "the god of this world"** and the "prince" or "ruler" **OF THIS WORLD**. Satan is also called the "**prince of the power of the air**" - one of the many names for **Satan** in the Bible. We were **motivated** and energized by Satan when we were "children of disobedience", before we were saved. **All unsaved people** belong to **Satan** and are under his control in his "world system".

- **II Corinthians 4:3-4** "But even if our gospel is veiled (hidden), it is veiled to those who are perishing (do not believe), whose _____ the _____ of this age (world) has _____, who do not believe..."
- **John 8:40-44** (Verse 44) "You are of your _____, the _____, and the _____ of your father YOU _____ to do."
- **John 12:31** "Now is the judgment of this _____; now the _____ of THIS _____ will be cast out."

Definition: "Whose GOD is their BELLY" - "Belly" in this context means "**physical, fleshly appetites**". People make many things their "gods" or "idols" - IDOLATRY doesn't have to be worshiping STATUES, it can be putting ANYTHING ahead of God in our lives. Anything or ANY PERSON in our lives that takes away from **our devotion to God** can become an IDOL .

- **I John 5:19-21** "We know that we are of God, and the whole _____ lies in the power of the _____ one. And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might _____ who is true, and we are in _____ who is _____, in _____ Jesus Christ. This is the _____ and eternal life. Little children, _____ yourselves from _____."

Definition: "The Spirit who DWELLS in us YEARNS JEALOUSLY" - God came to dwell in you by His Holy Spirit when you accepted Jesus as your Savior, and **He desires "jealously" to be the ONLY GOD in your life**. Exodus 20:3 says, "I am the Lord your God..... You shall have NO OTHER GODS before (besides) Me." We usually think of jealousy as being a bad thing, because our motives are so corrupted by sin, but God can be "a jealous God" in the good sense, because He knows that ONLY HE HIMSELF can truly be a "god" that is good to us. If we allow other things to be our "gods" they will eventually fail us and let us down.