

## JAMES 4:8-17

LAST WEEK WE STARTED CHAPTER 4 OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES. THIS LETTER TO THE CHURCH IS A PASSIONATE CALL TO MEASURE OUR FAITH. DO WE POSSESS GENUINE FAITH IN CHRIST? OR DO WE MERELY PROFESS OUR FAITH WITH NO EVIDENCE OF THAT BEING TRUE? JAMES IS ASKING THE CHURCH TO EXAMINE OUR HEARTS, MOTIVES, BEHAVIORS, SPEECH, ACTIONS, AND FAITH. IN THE BEGINNING OF CHAPTER 4, JAMES POINTS OUT A PAINFUL TRUTH. THE FIGHTING AND QUARRELING WITHIN THE CHURCH FIRST STARTS INTERNALLY AND IS EXPOSED EXTERNALLY CAUSING DIVISION AND PAIN THAT COMPOUNDS. WHEN A PERSON'S FLESHLY "SELF FOCUSED" DESIRES TAKE OVER, UNMEASURED WITH THE WORD OF GOD, THEY ACT OUT IN THEIR OWN WORLDLY WISDOM. THIS KIND OF WISDOM IS HUMAN, EVIL, AND DECEPTIVE. YES, FEELINGS ARE VALID, IT'S WHAT WE DO WITH THOSE FEELINGS THAT DETERMINES WHERE WE ARE AT IN OUR SPIRITUAL WALK WITH CHRIST. JAMES EXPRESSES THAT A PRAYERLESS LIFE OR PRAYING WITH A SELFISH AGENDA IS WHY PEOPLE ARE LEFT FEELING EMPTY AND UNSATISFIED. PEOPLE WHO HAVE ONE FOOT IN THE WORLD "KOSMOS" AND ONE FOOT IN CHURCH WONDER WHY THEY CAN'T GO DEEPER IN THEIR FAITH. YOU ARE LITERALLY LIVING AGAINST GOD WHEN YOU PARTNER WITH THIS CULTURE AND IT'S IDEOLOGIES. JAMES DECLARES IT IS TO BE AN ENEMY OF GOD TO BE A FRIEND OF THE WORLD. DON'T BE SO PRIDEFUL TO THINK THAT YOU CAN HAVE JESUS AS LORD AND STILL LIVE HOWEVER YOU WANT. "GOD AND I ARE GOOD". REALLY? ACCORDING TO

SCRIPTURE? GOD HATES SIN AND OPPOSES THE PROUD BUT SHOWS FAVOR TO THE HUMBLE. WE WILL START TODAY IN VERSE 7, WHERE WE LEFT OFF LAST WEEK.

James 4:7-8 NIV

<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

LIVE A CRUCIFIED LIFE, DIE TO SELF, LIVE FOR CHRIST IN OBEDIENCE TO THE SCRIPTURES....THIS IS SUBMISSION

RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO SIN, THIS WILL ONLY HAPPEN IF YOU SPEND TIME IN HIS WORD AND PRAYER DAILY. INTENTIONALITY AND DISCIPLINE TO DRAW NEAR TO HIM COUPLED WITH YOUR LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS LOVE FOR YOU WILL DRIVE OUT SIN. WE WON'T BE SINLESS BUT WE WILL SIN LESS

REPENTENCE AND A FIRM DECISION TO BE SINGLE MINDED IN FOLLOWING CHRIST PURIFIES YOUR LIFE AND HEART

Isaiah 29:13-16 NIV

<sup>13</sup> The Lord says:

“These people come near to me with their mouth  
and honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me

is based on merely human rules they have been taught.  
<sup>14</sup> Therefore once more I will astound these people  
with wonder upon wonder;  
the wisdom of the wise will perish,  
the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish.”  
<sup>15</sup> Woe to those who go to great depths  
to hide their plans from the Lord,  
who do their work in darkness and think,  
“Who sees us? Who will know?”  
<sup>16</sup> You turn things upside down,  
as if the potter were thought to be like the clay!  
Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it,  
“You did not make me”?  
Can the pot say to the potter,  
“You know nothing”?

OSWALD CHAMBERS SAID “WE SHOULD MEASURE OUR  
GROWTH IN GRACE BY OUR SENSITIVENESS TO SIN”

James 4:9-10 NIV

<sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning  
and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord,  
and he will lift you up.

DOES THIS MEAN GOD WANTS US SAD NOT HAPPY?  
ABSOLUTELY NOT. HE IS SAYING THAT THE REVELATION OF  
OUR SIN NATURE SHOULD CAUSE US PAIN TO THE POINT OF  
WEEPING.

THE PRIDEFUL LAUGH IT OFF, THE HUMBLE WEEP IN  
REPENTENCE. THE LORD IS FAITHFUL TO FORGIVE AND LIFT UP

JI PACKER WROTE "A SENSE OF DEFILEMENT BEFORE GOD IS  
NOT MORBID, NEUROTIC, OR UNHEALTHY IN ANY WAY. IT IS  
NATURAL, REALISTIC, HEALTHY, AND A TRUE PERCEPTION OF  
OUR CONDITION"

GOSPEL TEARS MUST DROP FROM THE EYE OF FAITH

Luke 6:21 NIV

<sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

Luke 6:25 NIV

<sup>25</sup> Woe to you who are well fed now,  
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

AUGUSTINE SAID "THE PROUD HILLTOPS LET THE RAIN RUN  
OFF; THE LOWLY VALLEYS ARE RICHLY WATERED

James 4:11-12 NIV

<sup>11</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone  
who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks  
against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are

not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

SLANDER KILLS 3 PEOPLE: THE SPEAKER, THE SPOKEN TO, AND THE SPOKEN OF

JESUS FULFILLED THE LAW OF GOD, HE DID NOT REMOVE IT  
WE MUST NOT PUT OURSELVES IN SUCH A PRIDEFUL STATE OF BEING...TO THINK WE SINNERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE THAT CALL ON ANOTHER PERSON IS INSANE. WE CAN JUDGE SIN AND SHOW LOVE, GRACE, AND MERCY TO EACH OTHER

Proverbs 26:20-28 NIV

- <sup>20</sup> Without wood a fire goes out;  
without a gossip a quarrel dies down.
- <sup>21</sup> As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire,  
so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife.
- <sup>22</sup> The words of a gossip are like choice morsels;  
they go down to the inmost parts.
- <sup>23</sup> Like a coating of silver dross on earthenware  
are fervent lips with an evil heart.
- <sup>24</sup> Enemies disguise themselves with their lips,  
but in their hearts they harbor deceit.
- <sup>25</sup> Though their speech is charming, do not believe them,  
for seven abominations fill their hearts.
- <sup>26</sup> Their malice may be concealed by deception,  
but their wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.
- <sup>27</sup> Whoever digs a pit will fall into it;

if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them.

<sup>28</sup> A lying tongue hates those it hurts,  
and a flattering mouth works ruin.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY AND HOW YOU SAY IT. BE  
CAREFUL TO STOP SLANDER BEFORE IT LEAVES YOUR LIPS OR  
ENTERS YOUR EARS

DEAL WITH YOUR FEELINGS WITH GOD, GO TO THE THRONE  
BEFORE YOU PICK UP THE PHONE

1 Peter 3:8-9 NIV

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

BLESSING SOMEONE INSTEAD OF RETURNING INSULTS WILL  
CAUSE A PERSON TO REFLECT  
PEOPLE WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY THE WAY WE LOVE  
EACH OTHER....EVEN IN CONFLICT

James 4:13-14 NIV

<sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

WE CAN BE SO PRIDEFUL AS HUMANS TO THINK TOMORROW  
WILL ALWAYS BE THERE. BUT, AS THE BIBLE SAYS,  
“TOMORROW IS PROMISED TO NO ONE”

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE? THAT IS A GREAT QUESTION TO ASK  
YOURSELF

A LITTLE PIECE OF ADVICE:

SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE PLEASING GOD BECAUSE IT WILL  
BE OVER VERY QUICKLY AND WE WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR  
IT

THERE ARE 2 CERTAINTIES ABOUT THE FUTURE, GOD KNOWS,  
AND WE DON'T. FIND PEACE IN THIS TRUTH

Ephesians 5:15-20 NIV

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as  
wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the  
days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand  
what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads  
to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to  
one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the  
Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the  
Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. PLANNING RECOGNIZES THE UNCERTAINTIES IN LIFE  
PRESUMPTION IGNORES IT
2. PLANNING RECOGNIZES THE VALUE AND CLARITY OF LIFE

PRESUMPTION IGNORES IT

3. PLANNING CONSIDERS THE WILL OF GOD

PRESUMPTION IGNORES IT

4. PLANNING IS RATIONAL AND HUMBLE

PRESUMPTION IS IRRATIONAL AND BOASTFUL

James 4:15-17 NIV

<sup>15</sup> Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

THERE IS SIN OF COMISSION—SIN WE ACTIVELY COMMIT

THERE IS SIN OF OMISSION—NOT DOING WHAT GOD SAYS IS RIGHT

BE AWARE OF BOTH CHURCH

WE SINNERS HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN THE FINISHED WORK OF THE CROSS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST FOR GOD’S GLORY....THERE IS NOTHING TO BOAST ABOUT

LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST HAS LOVED US

END