Grow Group Study

The Epistle (Letter) of James – Chapter 4

# Chapter 4 - The Characteristics of Faith (con’t)

# I. Faith Produces Humility

**1. Vs.1-2** What’s the battles and fights that James is referring to?

**a.** Explain the difference between lust and love.

* Therefore, the desires (lusts) of the flesh come out of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* And the desires of the Spirit come out of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**b.** How does our faith play into this? (see Gal.5:6)

**2. Vs.3** Prayer must involve faith. “Amiss” means “improperly, or faulty”.

**a.** Can you give examples of how and why we ask God amiss?

**3.** **Vs.4** What does it mean to “be a friend of the world”? (Hint: see 2 Cor.4:4)

**b.** Why do you think God hates that, and why does James call those people adulterers and adulteresses?

**4.** **Vs.5**  **Jealousy vs Envy** - A righteous jealousy is having a strong desire to protect someone being taken away from you. Envy is having a strong desire to obtain someone or something that doesn’t belong to you.

**a.** Why does, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously". What’s trying to lure us away?

**5. Vs.6** Define pride, humility, and grace.

**a.** How does humility, love, faith and God's grace work together? **(see also Rom.5:1-2)**

**b.** Why does pride, selfishness & doubt NOT work with God’s grace? **(see also Jam.1:6)**

**6. Vs.7** How does humility work in helping us to submit to God and resist the devil?

**(see 1 Pet.5:5-9)**

**7.** **Vs.8-12** Remember faith has a corresponding action (**Jam.2:18**).

**a.** Define “Repentance” and discuss how it is a corresponding action of our faith and why it’s important in our relationship with God.

**b. Read Isaiah1:16 & 1 Pet.1:22** and discuss what's involved in order to *"cleanse your hands" and "purify your hearts".*

**c.** We previously discussed not judging or condemning others in the chapter 2 study, so let's move on to vss.13-17

II. "Faith Produces A Dependence On God"

**8.** **Vs.13-15** What’s a good rule to keep in mind when making promises?

**9.** **Vs. 16** What's the difference between: (**Hint:** Knowing God’s will, identity in Christ, etc.)

**a.** Faith vs. Presumption

**b.** Confidence vs. Arrogance

**10.** **Vs.17** Summarize faith by complimenting this verse with **Jam.1:22** and **Rom.14:23b** that says, *“…for whatever is not of faith is sin.”*

**b.** Faith chooses to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ self and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God.