

**THE WAR WITHIN  
LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
BIBLE STUDY  
JAMES 4:1-10**

**OBJECTIVE-TO LEARN HOW TO OVERCOME OUR OWN SELFISHNESS AND BE BLESSED IN CHRIST.**

**INTRO-MANY CHRISTIANS GET CAUGHT UP IN A CERTAIN MINDSET OF SELFISHNESS AND PRIDE. MUCH LIKE SPORTS IN A WAY. INSTEAD OF COMPLEMENTING ONE ANOTHER, WORKING AS A TEAM, PLAYERS BECOME SELFISH AND START LOOKING OUT FOR “NUMBER ONE”. THUS HELPING THE OTHER TEAM HAVE AN UPPER HAND IN THE GAME. THE FLESH GETS IN THE WAY, PUTTING THE FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL, FORGETTING ABOUT OTHERS NEEDS AND DESIRES IN THE PROCESS AND THE MAIN GOAL IS NOT ATTAINED. THE INDIVIDUAL MIGHT GET CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL AWARDS, BUT WON’T OBTAIN THE BIG PRIZE NOR THE SUPPORT OF HIS/HER TEAMATES AND MOST LIKELY THE FANS. ALL BECAUSE SOMEONE STARTED TO CARE ABOUT THEMSELVES MORE THAN OTHERS AND DID JUST ABOUT ANYTHING TO GET IT, MAKING ENEMIES ALONG THE WAY.**

**THE BOOK OF JAMES IS STRAIGHT FORWARD AND PULLS NO PUNCHES. IN THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES OF STUDY, WE EXAMINE HOW TO LIVE AMONGST OURSELVES WITH THE BRETHREN BY HANDLING OUR DESIRES THE RIGHT WAY, BY RELYING ON GOD TO FULFILL OUR DESIRES, GOD’S WAY, AND KEEPING OUR WALK WITH GOD AND THE BRETHREN CLEAN AND TO FEND OFF THE ATTACKS OF THE ENEMY. BECAUSE THE ENEMY CAN’T USE WHAT ‘S NOT THERE. MEANING OUR OWN FLESH IS WHAT HE USES. SO WE MUST WIN THE WAR WITHIN.**

- 1. TO WHOM IS JAMES TALKING TO IN V.1 AND WHY WOULD IT BE IMPORTANT?**

**ANSWER-HE’S TALKING TO CHRISTIANS. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT CHRISTIANS HAVE NOT ARRIVED YET MEANING WE ARE NOT PERFECT AND WON’T BE UNTIL WE ARE IN**

HEAVEN. WE ARE A WORK IN PROGRESS AND GROW TO MATURITY. THIS MEANS WE STILL HAVE TO CONTROL OUR SINFUL NATURAL.

2. IN REFERENCE TO V.2, WHAT TYPE OF PEOPLE NORMALLY ACT THIS WAY?

ANSWER-UNSAVED PEOPLE. THE UNSAVED TRY TO OBTAIN THINGS THEIR OWN WAY, BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY IF NEED BE. THE KEY HERE IS THEIR OWN WAY. WHAT ELSE IS KEY IS LUST, COVET THINGS THEY WANT. GOD GAVE US DESIRES AND NEEDS FOR HIM TO FULFILL AND WHEN WE DON'T GET WHAT WE WANT, WHEN WE WANT IT, OUR OWN WAY, WE SEEK TO PLEASE OURSELVES.

3. WHEN A SELF SEEKING CHRISTIAN FINALLY DOES GO TO GOD, WHAT HAPPENS AND WHY?

ANSWER-ACCORDING TO V.3 THE SELFISH CHRISTIAN WILL NOT OBTAIN WHAT THEY ARE PRAYING FOR BECAUSE THEY ASK WITH WRONG MOTIVES MEANING THEY WILL NOT GIVE GOD THE GLORY; THEY WILL NOT USE THE BLESSING FOR GOD'S PURPOSE; THEY WILL ONLY USE THE BLESSING FOR SIN AND NOT FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS; BASICALLY GOD IS NOT FIRST IN THE HEART. EVERYTHING WE DO IN LIFE GOD MUST BE FIRST AND HE GETS THE GLORY. HIS KINGDOM AND RIGHTEOUSNESS MUST BE FIRST ABOVE ALL ELSE.

4. WHAT DOES GOD MEAN BY CALLING SUCH CHRISTIANS ADULTERERS AND ADULTERESSES IN V.4?

ANSWER-THEY HAVE BECOME SPIRITUALLY UNFAITHFUL TO GOD DUE TO THEM BECOMING FRIENDS WITH THE WORLD WHETHER THEY KNOW IT OR NOT, THUS THEY ARE BECOMING GOD'S ENEMIES SLOWLY BUT SURELY IF THEY ARE NOT FULLY GOD'S ENEMIES ALREADY. IT'S LIKE BREAKING A VOW TO GOD TO BE FAITHFUL LIKE IN A MARRIAGE. GOD WANTS HIS BRIDE TO BE FAITHFUL BECAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE SPIRITUALLY, GOD'S BRIDE. AND TO BE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WORLD MEANING WALKING WITH THE WORLD IN SIN.

5. IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT'S THE MAIN SIN THAT CAUSING ALL THE

WARS, FIGHTS, DISPUTES, ARGUMENTS, COVETING, VAIN IMAGINATIONS, ETC. SO FAR IN THIS STUDY?

ANSWER-IT COULD BE A NUMBER OF SINS BUT I THINK PRIDE IS BEING POINTED OUT HERE IN V.6. PRIDE IS PROBABLY WHERE ALL SIN STARTS BECAUSE IT'S MAIN FOCUS IS ME, ME , ME, ME AND NOTHING BUT ME WITHOUT ANY REGARD FOR ANYBODY ELSE INCLUDING GOD, MAINLY GOD. WHEN ALL THAT'S BEING THOUGHT ABOUT IS OURSELVES, YOU CAN BET IT'S PRIDE THAT'S PROBABLY MOVING THE MOTIVE AND ACTION.

6. BY WHAT VITAL ACTION DO WE OVERCOME THIS MOST DEADLY SIN?

ANSWER-ACCORDING TO VERSES 6 AND 10, WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD. WE REALIZE OUR SIN, ADMIT IT'S WRONG, ASK GOD TO CHANGE US AND FORGIVE US, WE RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE AND ARE FORGIVEN. AS SIMPLE AS THAT. IT'S THE HUMBLING PART THAT IS ROUGH BUT WORTH IT.

7. AS WE LOOK AT VERSES 7-9, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE MUST DO TO HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD?

ANSWER-A. SUBMIT TO GOD, MEANING WE OBEY HIS WORD

B. RESIST THE devil, MEANING WE REJECT TEMPTATION AND THE SIN THAT WOULD FOLLOW IT.

C. DRAW NEAR TO GOD, MEANING WE MUST COME TO GOD SINCE WE'RE THE ONES WHO SIN, GOD DOES NOT SIN OR MAKE A MISTAKE. WE HAVE TO SHOW GOD THAT WE WANT HIM FIRST  
D. WE REPENT WITH ALL SINCERITY, COMING STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART, EVEN CRYING IF WE HAVE TO.

8. FINALLY IN V.10, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD?

ANSWER- HE WILL LIFT US UP, CLEANSE US FROM OUR SIN, AND MAYBE EVEN BRING A BLESSING IF IT'S HIS WILL, IN HIS TIMING , IN HIS WAY, ACCORDING TO HIS WORD, THAT HE MAY GET THE GLORY AND HIS WILL IS DONE AS WELL AS OUR JOY BEING FILLED IN CHRIST.

CONCLUSION:WHEN WE LET OUR DESIRES GET THE BETTER OF US, YOU CAN BANK ON SIN RISING UP, FIGHTS OF SOME SORT START,

EVENTUALLY HURT OF SOME SORT BEGINS, AND SO AND SO ON AND SO ON. IF NOT CHECKED, DEATH MAY EVEN OCCUR, LITTERALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. THIS IS HOW SERIOUS IT CAN BE. IT'S ALSO VERY SERIOUS TO GOD. SO SERIOUS THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON TO DIE FOR US. GOD GAVE US NEEDS AND DESIRES, WE DIDN'T MAKE THEM OURSELVES OR THEY DIDN'T POP OUT OF NOWHERE. HE ALSO PROMISES TO MEET THOSE NEEDS AND DESIRES IF WE KEEP HIM FIRST IN OUR LIVES. THAT MEANS WALKING BY FAITH AND OBEDIANCE TO HIS WORD. GOD IS WILLING TO FORGIVE US OF OUR SELFISHNESS AND PRIDE BECAUSE THAT'S BASICALLY WHERE THE SIN IS COMING FROM. WE PUT OURSELVES IN FRONT OF OTHERS AND GOD. WE THEN OFFEND OTHERS AND GOD AND NOW WE'RE IN A BAD PLACE. IF WE WOULD HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD AND TRULY REPENT FROM THE HEART, WANTING GOD TO HELP US CHANGE, GOD PROMISES TO CLEANSE US FROM OUR SIN AND UPLIFT US. HE DESIRES US TO REALIZE OUR FAULTS, ADMIT THE WRONG, TO ACTUALLY FEEL THE CONVICTION OF OUR SIN AND TO TURN FROM OUR WICKED WAYS. GOD WILL SURELY BLESS THE HUMBLENESS THAT WE SHOW TO HIM. IT IS A VERY GOOD THING TO HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD BUT IT CAN BE AWFUL HARD AT TIMES TOO. BUT ONCE WE GET PAST THAT HARD PART, REST ASSURED IT WILL BE WELL WORTH IT. JUST REMEMBER THIS, IF WE FOLLOW OUR PRIDE, WE'RE SAYING IN ESSENCE WE ARE GOD, WE ARE IN CHARGE, WE KNOW BETTER, WE ARE BETTER THAN GOD. BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD AND HE KNOWS BEST AND PROMISES TO HUMBLE A PERSON IF THAT PERSON DOESN'T GET RIGHT WITH GOD AND WE DON'T WANT THAT AT ALL BECAUSE WE'LL LOSE OUT IN THE END, NOT GOD. GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD AND THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE YES AND AMEN. THAT MEANS HE WILL FULFILL OUR LIVES BECAUSE HE MADE US AND SAVED US, HE WILL NOT SHORT CHANGE US, THAT'S THE devil's DOING WHO STEALS, KILLS, AND DESTROYS. GOD GIVES LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY, BUT HE'LL DO IT HIS WAY, THE BIBLICAL WAY. SO LET US HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD THAT HE MAY LIFT US UP AND NOT OURSELVES. IT WILL BE WELL WORTH THE WAIT. GOD BLESS MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND EVEN TO THE NON-BELIEVER WHO I PRAY WILL GIVE HIS/HER LIFE TO THE LORD AND FIND OUT HOW GOOD OF A GOD HE TRULY IS. LET US CONTINUE TO SPREAD THE GOOD GOSPEL AND GET THE

WORD OUT ABOUT OUR LORD AND SAVIOR TO A LOST AND  
HURTING WORLD.