



- The conflict around me may be revealing the conflict **within me**.

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? James 4:1

Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. James 4:1 (Msg)

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? James 4:1

How to fix the conflict in my life:

- I need to identify the **desires** that I battle with.

You covet what you do not have, so you scheme and kill to get it. James 4:2

21 "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' 22 But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court....Matthew 5:21-22

Action Step:

- Identify the **desires** within you that, when unmet, produce a wrong attitude from you.

...Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. James 4:2b

- Recognize when I'm no longer looking to God, and my desires have **replaced** God.

3 And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. 4 You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God?

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. James 4:6

Action Step:

- Look to **God** to meet your **desires**.

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. Psalm 23:1

7 So submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you... James 4:7-8a

- Change your **posture** before God and to the **influence** against God.

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

- Change your posture toward the **influence** against God.

12 Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world. Ephesians 6:12

Be angry and do not sin... and give no opportunity to the devil. Ephesians 4:26-27

8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you.... James 4:8

Because our **proximity** to God changes posture before God.

Action Step:

- Establish a new **posture** with God for a new purpose in your relationships.

Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. 9 Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. James 4:8b-10

- Address my **sin** issue, and let God **heal** what's broken.

5 Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. James 4:5

VISION:

**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- What's the difference between knowing God's wisdom and displaying God's wisdom?
- What desire, when unmet, tends to affect your attitude the most?
- How can conflict around us reveal conflict within us?
- Why is it easier to identify someone else's wrong desires than our own?
- What are some ways an unmet desire can turn into anger, resentment, or control?
- How can we tell when a good desire has become more important than God?
- What does it practically look like to look to God to meet our deepest desires?
- What does "submit to God" look like when you're in conflict with someone?
- How can the enemy use anger, pride, or hurt to influence our relationships?
- Why do you think James connects drawing near to God with changing how we live?
- How does our proximity to God affect the way we respond to people?
- What might God be trying to change in you through a difficult relationship?
- Is there an area where you need to repent, change your posture toward God, or allow Him to heal what's broken?

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Today's Talk..



**How to fix the conflict
in our lives**

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