

**Reflection Questions:** Do I harbor a desire that's so far out of God's will that I'm ashamed to mention it to Him? What percentage of my prayers is focused on selfish desires? Am I living for the world while expecting God to answer my prayers? Is my life filled with conflicts? Am I better friends today with God than I was a year ago? With the world? Where do I find my primary pleasures?

How can I pray for others and our church this week?

### Quotes to Ponder

*The ultimate choice in life lies between pleasing oneself and pleasing God; and a world in which men's first aim is to please themselves is a battleground of savagery and division.*

William Barclay

*No two believers who are both walking in the Spirit of God towards each other can live with wars and fights among themselves.*

David Guzik

*Do you suffer from spiritual poverty? It is your own fault, for He giveth more grace. If you have not got it, it is not because it is not to be had, but because you have not gone for it.*

Charles Spurgeon

*All of these troubles come because in our sin we desire our own pleasure at the expense of other people.*

James Montgomery Boice

*The evil in our desire typically does not lie in what we want, but that we want it too much.*

John Calvin

*We must not...deceive ourselves into thinking that we can live in intimate fellowship with Him when the set of our hearts...is toward the world.*

J.A. Motyer

*Friendship with the world and friendship with God are mutually exclusive.*

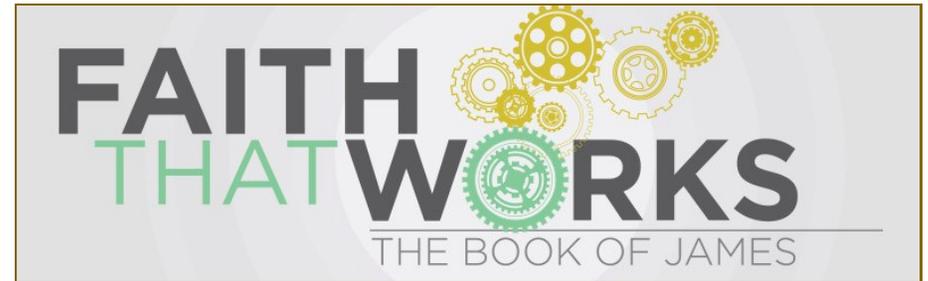
John MacArthur

*For daily need there is daily grace; for sudden need, sudden grace; for overwhelming need, overwhelming grace.*

John Blanchard

*When your personal desires for fulfillment and satisfaction take precedent over your loyalty to God and love for the brethren, it is war.*

J. Ligon Duncan



#18 Cravings and Conflicts (4:1-6)

*Sermon*  
*Notes*

June 30, 2019

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you?  
Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?
2. What connection do you see between *James 4:1-6* and *James 3:13-18*?  
Any connections with things that were prior to that?
3. Is it wrong to have desires for pleasure? Explain.
4. Why is James so intolerant of conflict within the church (*James 4:1-5*)?  
  
*John 17:20-21* — *Ephesians 2:3* —  
  
*2 Corinthians 12:20* — *2 Timothy 3:2-5* —
5. What do the following verse say about such conflict?  
*John 17:20-21* — *Ephesians 2:3* —  
  
*2 Corinthians 12:20* — *2 Timothy 3:2-5* —
6. Read *Matthew 5:21-26*. How does Jesus relate anger and murder? How will being obedient to this teaching alleviate quarrels and fights?
7. What does James say about the motives of those who ask but do not receive (*James 4:3*)?
8. What does James call his readers in *verse 4*? Why?
9. What are the two cause and effect statements James presents in *verse 4*?
10. How does God regard His children who live for their self-centered pleasures and what does He do to help them?
11. How do you define *worldliness*? How does Scripture define it (*James 4:4*)?  
  
*Galatians 1:4* — *1 John 2:15-17* —
12. What should be the Christian's relationship with the world?  
*John 17:15-18* — *James 4:4* —  
  
*Galatians 1:4* — *1 John 2:15-17* —
13. What have we forgotten when we make the world our friend?
14. What does it mean to be *an enemy of God* (*James 4:4*)?  
  
Can a Christian be *an enemy of God*? Explain.
15. Read *James 4:5* in a number of translations. Depending on how it is translated, what does it mean?  
  
What *Scripture* does James refer to here?
16. What is the essence of biblical humility? Can a person know when he is humble? Explain.