

## Living by Faith IX: James

"For Peace"

James 4: 1-10

*Going Beyond* the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on October 8, 2017

### ***Entering In:***

*Share one war-related story you have heard or watched.*

1. What, in the immediate context, is the contrast to the question, "What causes fights and quarrels among you"? [cf.3:18]

Why do you think James omits "my brothers" (cf. 1:2; 2:1; 3:1) in this chapter?

- A. He said it enough.
- B. There is no particular reason.
- C. He wanted to indicate the severity of this section.
- D. Other

2. In this passage, what is identified as the cause of fighting and quarrels among believers?

What makes our desire bad enough to cause a quarrel?

In what area of your life do you see this to be true?

3. Verses 2b-3 is one of the most important verses in the Bible concerning prayer. What are the two great problems in our prayer life according to these verses?

Looking at the previous chapter, what does James imply that Christians do not have?

Give one or two examples of how we could pray with wrong motives.  
e.g.) Praying for our sport team to win.

4. What does James call those who are friends of the world?

What truth is revealed?

Give one or two examples how we become a friend of the world.

5. Verse 5 is very controversial because the spirit (*πνεῦμα, pneuma*) may be either a human spirit or the Holy Spirit. Here are some different interpretations. Which one do you think best fits the context?

- A. God jealously longs for the spirit that he made to live in us.
- B. The Holy Spirit which he made to dwell in us jealously longs for people's devotion.
- C. The Holy Spirit which he made to dwell in us lusts enviously.
- D. The human spirit which he made to dwell in us jealously longs for own devotion.
- E. The human spirit which he made to dwell in us lusts enviously.
- F. Other

What does it mean to you when God is jealous for you? (cf. Exodus 34:14; 20:5)

What can you do *personally* to the jealous God?

6. What Scripture is quoted in verse 6?

What is the opposite of humility?

How would the proud and humble act differently regarding their pleasure and desire?

7. There are ten aorist (past) imperatives (commands) in verses 7-10, which demand decisive action. List all the commands in verses 7-10.

Which is most meaningful to you and why?

Explain the difference between *commitment* and *surrender*.

8. If God is omnipresent, why do you think we need to *come near to God*?

In what ways do you personally come near to God?

Some Christians (hedonists) pursue pleasures in the Lord, which is biblical. What is the danger of Christian hedonism?

***Living It Out:***

*Pray that God may send you as a peacemaker where there are quarrels.*