

James 4:1-10
The Reward of Faith

Introduction

Question: Recall a recent quarrel you have had. What do you think caused it?

Conflict wracks many Christian homes. Sometimes we idealize the early church. But the reality is, the early church was made up of people, and people haven't changed over the centuries. So, it was not a unique situation when James addressed the problem of quarrels and conflicts among the believers to whom he wrote.

James 4:1-10

1. How does coveting lead to fights and quarrels in the body of Christ (vv. 1-2)? What are some personal desires that would cause quarrels and fights?

2. What does James say about the motives of those who do ask, but do not receive (v. 3)?

3. Is it always wrong to pray for our own desires? How can we know whether our desires line up with God's desires?

4. Why is friendship with the world equivalent to hatred toward God (v. 4)? Can a believer be a friend of the world?

5. Why does God give us this grace only if we are humble, never if we are proud?

6. Where is your biggest battle when it comes to worldliness? How can you guard against it?

7. Make a list of every command in verses 7-10. What do each command have to do with pride?

8. Have you ever wondered why you didn't feel God near to you? What should we do when God seems far away (v. 8)?

Reflection

How do you personally find your heart resisting complete and humble submission to God?