

STUDY NOTES

JAMES: A FAITH THAT ENDURES

a series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “The Humble Solution to Fights and Quarrels” on 3/10/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 4:1-10

FILLED WITH WHAT?

James is writing to the church just a few years after the book of Acts records the beginning of the church. James’s language shows us that much has changed within the body of Christ since the beginning. **Read Acts 4:32-33**. Instead of acting in “full heart and soul,” the church was full of fights and disputes.

- *How would you describe the global church today? Full of heart and soul or full of fights and disputes? Describe why you say that.*

James goes right for the root of the problem. The fights were caused by their passions which couldn’t be fulfilled. The term that James uses implies the very physical feelings associated with the bodily appetites. Personal appetites cannot be satisfied without taking from others; which means, if you are lovers of the things of the world you will fight and quarrel.

Internal motives have external consequences.

- *What is your experience with sin being like an “appetite” of which you can never satisfy it enough?*
- *What specifically might that appetite be craving in your life right now?*
- *How does that appetite lead you to treat others?*

MURDERERS AND ADULTERERS

James calls the church, which was fighting and quarreling, “murderers and adulterers.” Scripture teaches us that the church is married to God. That means we are cheating on God with the world when we our desires for the things of the world are stronger than our desires for the things of God.

- *Why do you think James used such strong language to describe the state of the church?*
- *How would you view your sin differently if you described it with strong language like James does?*

PROPERLY MOTIVATED PRAYERS

To fight against our improper passions, James suggests that we submit ourselves to God with properly motivated prayers. Submitting ourselves to God, can strengthen us to flee temptation from the evil one. It can also give us a proper view of our sin. James says that we should mourn and weep over our sin.

Be humble or be humbled.

- *What keeps you from mourning over your sin?*

HUMBLED EXALTATION

Just because James tells us that we should lament over our sin, doesn’t mean that we will stay there. In fact James goes on to say that those who are humble will be exalted by God. Jesus modeled this for us. He humbled himself as much as possible by leaving heaven to die with the sin of the entire world placed upon him. Then God exalted Jesus to the “name above every other name”.

- *Why is it encouraging to know that God wants what’s best for you—that he wants to exalt you?*
- *Pray with each other to live in humbleness.*