

Sunday, August 17, 2025

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: Winning the War Within

Series: James... 8 Text: James 4:1 - 10

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation on God's strategy for Believer's to experience personal spiritual victory.

Introduction:

Last week we considered James 3:13 – 18, the devotional was entitled ‘The Lord Gives Wisdom.’

The main observations were: ~ 1. Wisdom That is Earthly (Worldly); ~ 2. Wisdom That Is Unspiritual (Natural or Fleshly); ~ 3. Wisdom That is Demoniac; ~ 4. Wisdom That is From Above

~ James 4 continues along the same line asking – “*What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?*”

~ The Apostle Paul made this personal observation in Romans 7:15 to 8:8. Read

1. Wars That Are External:

~ The controversy of the universe is, ‘Who is in charge?’

~ vs. 1 – 2, “*What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? (2) You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.*”

~ vs. 2 “desire” G1937 epithymeo (16 X) verb: “to have a desire for, long for, to desire; to set the heart upon, i.e. long for (rightfully or otherwise); -- covet, desire would fain, lust (after)

~ Matthew 13:17, Luke 15:16, Luke 22:15

~ vs. 2 “murder” G5407 phoneuo (12 X) verb: murder. Romans 1:29

~ vs. 2 “covet” G2206 zeloo (12 X) verb: to burn with zeal, boil with envy, hatred, anger

Acts 7:9, 1 Corinthians 12:31, and 13:4

~ Contrast with Psalm 133:1, “*Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!*”

2. War Within:

~ vs. 2, “*You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.*”

~ A WEEK without prayer makes one WEAK!

~ vs. 3, “*You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*”

~ Ryrie Study Bible note: “with wrong motives,” Lit. evilly, for selfish purposes”

~ To expand the kingdom of God or to bless others? NO! To spend it on our own passions.

~ vs. 4, “*You adulterous people!*”

~ This is an allegory picturing an unfaithful spouse.

~ I am part of the bride of Christ Jesus, am I true to Him or am I unfaithful.

~ James 1:7 – 8, “*For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*”

~ Psalm 27:4 – 5 and 8

~ vs. 5, “*He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us?*”

~ God so loves us that he does not want us to settle for anyone or anything less than Him.

~ 2 Peter 3:9, “*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*”

~ vs. 6, But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*”

~ Proverbs 13:10, “*By insolence (pride) comes nothing but strife, but with those who take advice is wisdom,*”

3. Winning the War Within:

~ vs. 7 – 10

~ vs. 7, “*Submit yourselves therefore to God.*”

Submit is a Greek verb, 5292 and means “to yield to one's admonition or advise”

ONE

~ vs. 7, “*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*”

Resist a Greek verb, 6435 and means to set against

TWO

~ vs. 8, “*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.*”

Draw near is the Greek verb engizo (1447) and means to bring near, to join one thing to another.

Hebrews 4:14 – 16 By the Word, Worship, and Prayer

THREE

~ vs. 8, “*Cleanse your hands,*”

Cleanse – this Greek verb (2511) means to free from defilement of sin and faults. Romans 6 through 8.

This is a removal.

FOUR

~ vs. 8, “*purify your hearts, you double-minded.*”

Again, this is a Greek verb, 48 and is best explained by 1 Peter 1:22, 1 John 1:8 – 10, and 3:3

FIVE

~ vs. 9, “*Be wretched and mourn and weep.*”

Wretched is the Greek verb 5002 and means to toil heavily, to endure labors and hardships, to be afflicted (see James 1)

SIX

~ vs. 10, “*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*”

This is the SEVENTH verb used to direct the believer! Number 5013 means to make low, bring low.

Matthew 18:4, Philippians 2:8, 1 Peter 5:6