



## You Don't Have, Why?

By Ken Terry on March 1, 2022

**TODAY'S READING:** James 4

James describes the level of consciousness among the people of his time. They were having many quarrels and conflicts. I would imagine the issues were brought about by anger and division among the people. Does this sound familiar to anyone today? It should, because our world has not changed. The issues then, quarrels and conflicts because of sin, are the same issues that plague mankind today. James identifies several, *"You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask"* (James 4:2).

Many of us have exhibited the same level of frustration and anger and inadvertently caused division among people. Some may ask how I came to this conclusion? If you think about it, how often do you hear people inside and outside the church having conflict over COVID, conflict over the vaccine, and the conflict with the social and economic divide among people. These are only a few obstacles that prevent the flow of God's blessings. You see, when we engage in an unloving way, we demonstrate the same level of hostility along with the world. This is sin. And where there is the presence of sin, the Holy Spirit of God does not dwell. If we walk with the world, the love of the Father is not in us. James describes the concept this way, *"Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God"* (James 4:4).

All is not lost! We have a great big God who seeks a loving relationship with you! He wants to bless you and prosper you spiritually, emotionally and relationally. He asks one thing, turn from your sinful ways. You see, our sin creates the wrath which keeps us at odds with Him as enemies. Therefore, repent and turn to Him. For He is a good God and awaits those who are humble and obedient, *"But He gives more grace. Therefore it says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble'"* (James 4:6).

It is my prayer that you will re-examine your life as it relates to your walk in Christ. You see, you have to surrender to Jesus and deny self and self-interest in order to receive the rich blessing from God. You cannot have it both ways--walking with the world and with Christ. Both entities are diametrically opposed to one another. Why? You may ask. One is of God (Christ) and the other is of the world (Satan). Allow this next passage to be your closing thought for the day, *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded"* (James 4:8).

**PRAYER:** Our Father in the heavens, Jehovah God, we come to You in a posture of humility and surrender. Father, we thank You for Jesus! We thank You for the love we experience through Him. Father, please continue to help us love and submit to Him as Lord of our lives.

Father, please incline our hearts to Your Holy Spirit that resides in us so we can receive all the rich blessings You will provide those who are humble, obedient and repentant. Father, in Your Word You say we have not because we ask not. Father, we are asking You to make us more like Jesus, so that what we want and desire will be aligned to Your will. Father, we ask all these things in the mighty name of Jesus, amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** James 5

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