

James 4:1-2: Your Cravings Fuel Your Conflicts

Introduction

- The fuel for your quarrels and fights is your passionate desires that burn within you.
 - You can't stop outside sparks from flying; they will fly at times.
 - But you can, by God's grace, not give them a place to land and burn in you.
- Your conflicts are fueled by your cravings.
- The conflict James 4 speaks of is not just having a disagreement.
 - You can have different opinions and discuss them in a way that's not sinful.
 - You can disagree without being disagreeable, without sinning.

Three-Fold Battle Plan

1. Recognize Your Inner Desires

James 4:1 asks, "What the source is of our quarrels and conflicts?"

Where do these feuds and fights come from? What is their origin?

The phrase "what's the source/cause" is emphatic, repeated for both quarrels and fights for further emphasis:

Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

The problem is not desires.

Husband's desire for a little relaxation when he comes home.

Wife's desire to have some help around the house or kids behave.

Either of their desires for romance or intimacy with the other.

A desire for marriage by those who are single.

A desire for understanding, respect, or even your preferences.

A desire for a particular day or evening to go a particular way.

2. Repent of Your Inordinate Desires

To repent is to turn from self and sin to instead trust Jesus as Lord.

Don't just repent of the fruit, the end result of your inordinate desires.

Confess what's really going on in your heart: your desires that have displaced God's desires.

Verse 6 says God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Verses 7-9 explain how the humble repent of sin.

- 1 Corinthians 13:5
- Proverbs 12:18
- Proverbs 18:13
- Luke 6:27-28
- Romans 12:17-21

3. Re-Orient Yourself to God's Desires

- Lack of peace is often tied to lack of prayer, whether inner peace (Philippians 4) or outer peace (James 4).

Psalm 139: 23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

- Prayer doesn't change God's mind in order to give us what we desire.
- It should change our hearts to submit to what God desires of us.
- It corrects my cravings from "my will be done" to "**Thy will be done.**"