

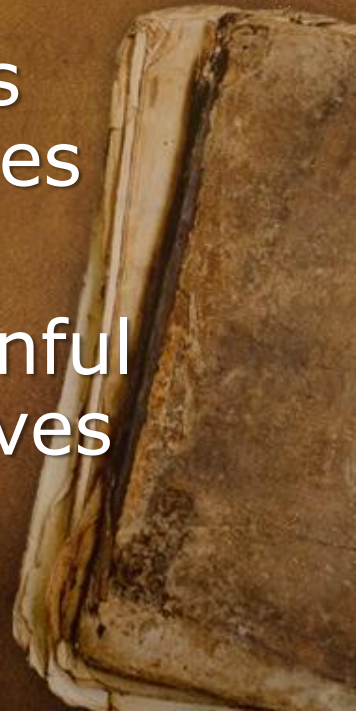
The Book of
JAMES

War and Peace


James 4:1-10

Lust


- Lusts are driven by the question, *"What's going to make me feel good?"*
- Many of the conflicts in the body of Christ originate in fleshly desires.
- Our own struggle to assert ourselves might be the very thing that quenches the Holy Spirit.
- We are sinful creatures, driven by sinful desires, struggling to make themselves known in our lives.



Cycle of Desires

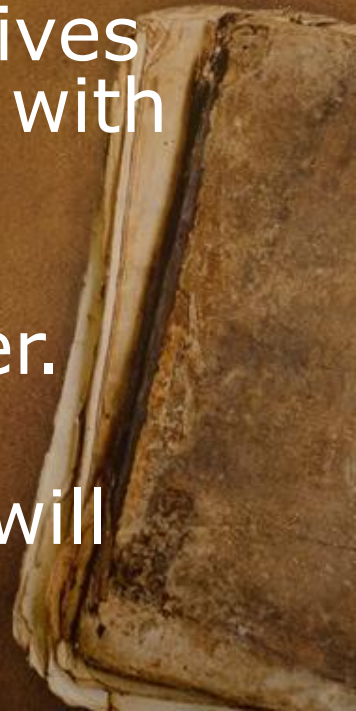
- Sin is a bottomless pit, always looking for more but never able to be satisfied.
 - There will always be something we want regardless of what we have.
 - It is not what we have that presents the problem, it is what we DO NOT have.
 - We are driven more by selfish desires than obedience to God.
 - When we pray for miracles, it is usually to satisfy our own personal desires rather than the will of God.
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Spiritual Adultery

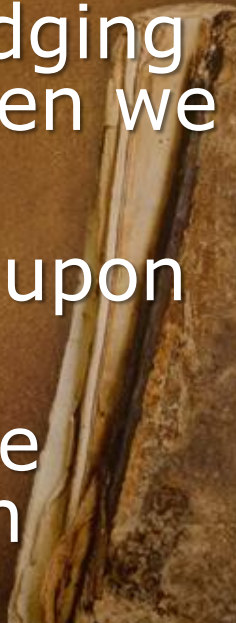
- We become spiritual unfaithful when we flirt with the world.
 - "*Friendship*" implies flirtation with a lifestyle that is looking for an opportunity.
 - "Enmity" suggests hostility, a withholding of affection.
 - We are called to live lives of holiness before God.
 - Spiritual adultery is the most difficult and painful of sins to admit.
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Peace

- The Holy Spirit is the only one with truly pure lusts, because He longs after us.
- The Holy Spirit draws us tenderly to the Father with love.
- The Holy Spirit brings peace to our lives when we allow Him to have His way with us.
- The Holy Spirit will go with us in the ways that God intends and no further.
- The Holy Spirit empowers and encourages us in God's plans, if we will let Him.

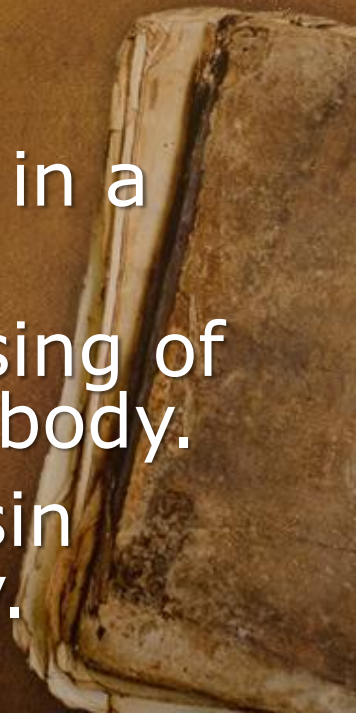


Humility

- Humility is the first step to receive God's grace.
 - The dispensation of God's grace relies on our willingness to receive it.
 - When we come before God, acknowledging our inadequacy and His sufficiency, then we are able to receive grace.
 - There is no way humans can improve upon grace.
 - If we follow Jesus, we can expect to be disciplined when we become filled with pride.
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Restoration

- Biblical repentance comes in two parts: realizing the problem and turning away from it.
- We are called to make Jesus the Lord of everything pertaining to us.
- Only through prayer and reading the Scriptures can we come to know God in a personal way.
- A key part of repentance is the cleansing of our physical sins, sins that affect the body.
- When we see the seriousness of our sin before God, it ought to make us sorry.



Conclusion

- When we are:
 - Finished with our fighting
 - Done with our desires
 - Loosed from our lusts
 - Filled with godly sorrow
 - Humbled in God's presence
 - Submitted to God's restoring power
 - THEN, and only then, can we experience the hand of God as He lifts us from our faces to our feet.
 - To know Him even as we are known, cannot begin until we acknowledge our problem and seek His solution.
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