

The Heavenly Wisdom of Humility

James 4:1-10

A. The Thinking Challenge (4:1)

1. Where does _____ come from? (v1a)
 - “wars” (*polemoi*) – battles, conflicts = the state of war
 - “fights” (*machai*) – contentions, quarrels = individual disputes
2. Could it come from _____? (v1b)
 - *What are the two primary element of worldly wisdom (James 3:14-16)?*

B. The Painful Diagnosis (4:2-5)

1. The source of strife among believers is _____. (v2-3)
 - The evidence of _____ striving is expressed in four couplets:
 - “lust... do not _____”
 - “murder and covet... not _____”
 - “fight and war... do not _____”
 - “ask... do not _____”
 - The heart issue:
 - “you ask _____ that you may spend it on your pleasures”
2. This hedonistic pride is a form of _____. (v4-5)
 - Unfaithfulness to God is often expressed in Scripture with the _____ of unfaithfulness in a marriage and an improper _____ to this world. (Hosea 4:12, Ezekiel 16:15-63, Matthew 6:24, 1 John 2:15-16, 2 Timothy 4:10)

C. The Gracious Solution (4:6-10)

1. *Practical Theology*: For you (as a believer) to remain proud is to _____ the gracious giving of a God who responds to your heart's posture. (v6)
2. "Therefore submit to God" is the guided _____ to this truth about God's responsiveness (v7-9)
 - *How has James already taught submission to God?*
 - 1:2-20 – submit to His _____ in all trials
 - 1:5-8 – submit to His _____ by prayer
 - 1:21-26 – submit to His _____ honestly
 - *How does James teach submission to God in this passage?*
 - "_____ the devil and he will flee from you." (v7b)
 - "Draw _____ to God and He will draw near to you." (v8a)
 - Honestly admit your sins and actively choose to _____ God's ideas and feelings toward your shortcomings. "Cleanse... purify... lament..." (v8b-9)
3. *Conclusion*: "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and _____ will lift you up." (v10)
 - *How might God lift up His humble children?*