

Questions on James chapter 4

1. What is the contrast between the closing words of the last chapter and this? What is the difference between wars and fightings? Verse 1.

2. To whom does the pronoun “you” refer? From what source do wars come? Verse 1.

3. Why did not those whom James addressed obtain the things they coveted, in spite of their lust or strong desire? Verse 2.

4. Although some of them asked God for what they desired, why didn't they receive the things? What is another word for the word translated “lusts”? Verse 3.

5. Are the terms “adulterers and adulteresses” used figuratively? What is meant by “the world” and what does it mean to be a friend of the world? Verse 4.

6. What is another way of putting James' question about the Scriptures? Is the “spirit” the human spirit or the Holy Spirit? Why does the spirit covet with great desire? Verse 5.

7. Does James regard man's condition of having "a spirit that covets with great desire" as hopeless? What is it that God gives to help us resist temptations of Satan? Verse 6.

8. Who are those whom God resists or arrays himself against? What would be a description of those whom God resists? Verse 6.

9. Who are those to whom God keeps on giving grace? What is their disposition or frame of mind? Verse 6.

10. What is the meaning of the phrase "submit yourselves" to God? Is it possible to carry out this command by giving mechanical obedience? Verse 7.

11. How do we resist the devil? How was our Savior able to cause the devil to flee or leave Him? Verse 7. (See Matthew 4:11)

12. How do we get God to draw nigh to us? If the previous verse tells us how to draw nigh to God, what would the chain of events be? Verse 8.

13. Is the cleansing of hands and hearts figurative? What is double-minded about the “sinners” in this connection? Verse 8.

14. Why does James exhort them to be afflicted or to be aware of the heavy load of sin they are carrying? What will this awareness cause? Is laughter wrong? Verse 9.

15. How do we humble ourselves? Is there an example in the New Testament of someone humbling himself and then being exalted? Verse 10.

16. This verse is a return to what topic discussed in chapter 3? How do we judge the law by speaking evil of our brother? Verse 11.

17. Who is the only one authorized to make laws for his people or to pass judgment on the laws he has made? What is the absurdity of our judging other brethren? Verse 12.

18. What is the judging that is forbidden in this passage and other places? Verse 12.

19. What are the four presumptions of those in this verse? Verse 13.

20. What were the uncertainties involved concerning those who made the statement in the previous verse? Verse 14.

21. Do the words, “if the Lord wills,” have to always be on our lips when we make our plans or is it to be an attitude of heart that James enjoins? Verse 15.

22. What do you think of the ad on television that states that “we have been here for years, we are here today, and we will be here tomorrow”? Verse 15.

23. What was evil about the one who boasts and rejoices in it? Verse 16.

24. What sin is committed in knowing to do good and not doing it? Verse 17.