

Why Do We Fight, David Papillon
August 4, 2024
James 4:1-10

We fight by clamming up or blowing up.

Clamming Up: is digging in, holding ground, sulking, pouting, giving the silent treatment, being withdrawn, isolated, being alone.

Blowing Up: is provoking those who aren't moving much, getting loud, lashing out, calling names, hitting things, kicking things, throwing a tantrum.

>Just as the knot in tug-of-war gets tighter as both sides pull, both types extend the conflict.

>Confrontation isn't always bad. Scripture gives us examples of proper conflict: Jude 15, to convict all who are ungodly. 2 Tim. 4:2, preach the word, convince, rebuke, exhort. Rom. 15:14, able to admonish. Gal. 2:11, Paul withstood Peter to his face. Jude 3, to contend for the faith. Eph. 6:15, the preacher who preaches the Gospel of peace causes conflict.

3 Reasons Why I Fight:

1. **I Fight Because of What I Want:** 4:1-2, my pleasures, self-focus, and lusts. James tells us that our self-will leads to murder and covetousness. In Matthew 5:21-26, Jesus tells us that anger/murder are the same in the court of heaven. James tells us that desire for our pleasures can lead to us wanting to remove something so that nothing stands in our way.
2. **I Fight Because of What I Don't Want:** 4:2-3, you aren't going to God to ask God for things that you need. You are relying on yourself for bringing satisfaction.
 - a. We don't pray because we don't want what God is giving to us. We want more for our pleasures.
 - b. We should pray to avoid conflict and discontentment. God and I are after different things. God is holy, I am wicked, twisted. His wisdom is perfect, James 1:17.
 - c. We were made to want infinite pleasure. We were made to worship God, Ps. 16:11. Our sinful desires keep us from what God has for us.
3. **I Fight Because I Want What the World Wants:** 4:4, we are friends with the world which is enmity with God. James had given us an overview of the believers hearing this message, in James 1:2-7, they are immature, lacking wisdom, unstable. In James 1:9-10, 2:1-6, they are preferring rich over poor. In James 3, they aren't able to tame their tongues. In James 3:13-16, a worldly faith is causing confusion and envy towards others.

Things to Consider and Tests for Our Heart:

- a. Trials build faith and joy in our lives. A proven faith is God's gift to us, James 1:2-8.
- b. We need to fight against having fellowship with the world.
- c. Abraham was called the friend of God because he believed Him, James 2:23.
- d. What is our faith showing to others? James 2:26, 4:4.
- e. If we have a fighting spirit and fellowship with the world, we should test our hearts and see if we are fighting for our own pleasures.
- f. 1 John 2:15-17 tells us not to love the world or the pleasures of the world because they are passing away.
- g. Are we the enemy of God, James 4:4?
- h. The Spirit yearns jealously for God in those who are God's, James 4:5. He has purchased us, we are His (1 Cor. 6:20). He disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:5-11).
- i. Do we see our sin and confess our sin, 1 John 1:9-2:2?
- j. Are we humble in prayer to God asking Him to make us more like Christ?

Further Discussion and Application

When we look at the consequences of a life still longing to be apart of the world, what are the sins and entanglements that ensnare us? What will be the fruit of in the life of those who strive for materialism and worldly pleasures?

What is the proper attitude for those in trials?

What is the proper attitude for those who have means and those who lack wealth?

What is the reason that we are tempted to sin?

What is the reason that we don't see growth in our lives when we hear the Word of God?

Why does our heart long for worldly things instead of the things of God? What is the eventual end of wealth? What should it be used for?

Who are those whom God rescues and shows grace to? Why do the proud find it difficult to submit to the Lord?

What is the result of an unbridled tongue?

What type of wisdom is godly? What are the fruits of wisdom?

How do we set our hearts upon eternal things? How is humility essential for believers when they consider what they need, what they want, and what they should treasure in life?

What is the prayer that we could ask of the Lord that He could answer for us that would set us on a path to receive the blessings of a life lived for the Lord and pursuing Him and His righteousness?