

12/18/88

James 4

James has provided for us many tests of faith in this epistle in order that believers might know where they stand spiritually.

- Ch. 1 - Faith is tested through trials & temptations.
- Ch. 2 - Faith is tested through works.
- Ch. 3 - Faith is tested through words.
- Ch.4- Faith is tested through worldliness.

4:1-3 Carnal living

4:1 James present the sharp contrast of heavenly wisdom to a life of earthly carnal wisdom.

* Sin nature is never eradicated, Rom 6:6, 11-13; 7:18-25

- Carnal Christian lives under the energies of the flesh not yielding to life in the Spirit. 1Cor. 3:1-2
- Eph. 2:22-24 put off....put on the new man.
- 1Pet. 2:11 abstain from fleshly lust which was against the soul.

4:2 A life of strife, setting ones heart on things unlawful or unobtainable.

- 1) Prayer is shunned because of carnal state.

- 2) Prayer is ignored because confidence is ones own flesh. Ja. 3:14-16
- 3) Prayer used for selfish motives and pleasure seeking.

4:4 Spiritual adultery on Old Testament metaphor. Is. 54:5; Jer. 3:8; Hos. 1-2

- 1) New Testament also. 2Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:26; Rev. 19:7 bride of Christ
- 2) The world - the evil system of the world
 - a) 2Cor. 4:4 God of this world.
 - b) Jn. 14:30 Prince of this world.
 - c) 1 Jn. 5:19 entire world lies in wickedness.
 - d) Demas loved the present world and left Paul. 2Tim. 4:10
 - e) Friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God
 - f) It is the first step to fall in love with it. Rom. 12:2
 - g) Matt. 6:24 you can not serve two masters.

4:5 God's Holy Spirit demands absolute faithfulness allowing no rival
 - Deut. 5:1-9; 32:16; Ex. 20:5; 34:14; Zach. 8:2 the Lord is said to be a Jealous God.
 - no direct quotation but biblical

principle.

- Spirit.
- 1Cor. 6:19 body is temple of Holy
 - Gal. 5:17 flesh and Spirit are contrary.
 - * "Prov. 3:34" man has two options.
 - 1) Man resists God's grace because of pride.
 - 2) Man receives God's grace by humility.
 - Is. 57:15 contrite and humble spirit.
 - more grace necessary than needed.
 - We are to come before the throne. Heb.

4:16

4:7-10 Solution to carnality.

4:7 Submit to God - (hupatasso) military term to line up under.
Step of submission.

1) Resist the devil. (slanderer 1Pet. 5)

a) Matt. 4; Eph. 4:27

b) Promise he will flee.

4:8

2) Draw near to God. (prayer and the Word and Holy Spirit)

* promise - God will draw near to you

3) Cleanse your hands. (confess your sin)

- Is. 1 :18; Jn. 13:10 wash feet

4) Purify your hearts. (repentance)

- double minded has an uncircumcised heart.

4:9

5) Evidence of genuine repentance. Lk. 18:13 publican

- Rom. 7:24 O wretched man.

- 2Cor. 7:10 godly sorrow. (David in Ps. 51)

- Mat. 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.

4:10

6) Humble yourself in the sight of God.

* Promise - He will lift you up.

4:11-12 Judging of others.**4:11**

Does not speak against judging truth and error or on obvious moral evil but a critical fault finding spirit, Matt. 7:1-5

1) Backbiting or slandering ones brother.

- no false witness. Ex. 20:16 Talebearer.

Lev. 19:16

- no gossip. 1Pet. 2:1

- one of many things in. Rom. 1:30

- by our life to prove them wrong. 1Pet. 3:1

2) Declare self to be superior to the law and a judge.

4:12

3) God alone can judge the motive.

- Matt. 10:28 do not fear those who kill the body but cannot help the soul.
- Fear the One able to destroy both soul and body.

4:13-17 Presumptuous living.

4:13

- 1) James does not object to planning only without God.
 - be anxious for nothing, Phil. 4:6-7
 - Prov. 27:1 boast not about tomorrow.
 - Lk. 12:16-21 rich fool and life of ease.
- 2) These were business men who were not seeking and including God in their affairs.
 - * Eph. 5:17 understand the Will of the Lord is

4:14

- 1) Life in uncertain.
- 2) Life is temporal as a vapor.
 - Teach me to number our days
 - Job 7:6, 9; 8:9; 9:25, 26;;14:10-12

4:15

- 1) Prayer planning is if the "Lord Wills".
 - Acts 18:21; 1Cor. 4:19; 16:7; Rom. 1:10; 15:32

4:16

Their sin - boasting arrogantly without seeking God.

4:17

- 1) Sin is doing what one knows to be wrong.
- 2) Sin is knowing to do good and do it not.
 - read.
 - pray.
 - obey.
 - flee youthful lust.