

GENUINE FAITH LIVES A LIFE OF SELF-DENIAL
(James 4:1-17)

Opening: Did you ever get into quarrels or fights as a child? With who and why? What is your perspective looking back on it now?

1. What does James say is the source of quarrels and fights (v1)?
2. What is the correct way to handle our wants and desires (v2-3)? Why is there such a direct and important relationship between what we want and the solution God gives us to fights and quarrels?
3. How do you normally react in a quarrel or fight? Based on this passage, how will you attempt to change that response in the future?
4. The “world” (v4-5) refers to the activities, affairs, assets, attitudes and values of people who don’t know God in this world (I John 2:15-17). Why do you think a friendly spirit towards the world is “hatred toward God?” What does this tell us about God?
5. What are some practical ways in which we struggle with being too friendly with the world around us? What can we do to resist the world and its influence in our lives? Can you give a personal example of how you have resisted the world’s influence in our own life?
6. Another source of conflict in our Christian lives comes from Satan (v7). How can we experience victory over him (v7-10)?
7. Why should we not slander others (v11-12)? What instruction does God give us here for not falling into this trap? What have you found helpful for defeating a critical, judgmental attitude?
8. Psalm 19:13 says, *Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then I will be upright, and I will be innocent from great transgression.* Why is presumption sinful and evil (v13-16)? What relationship is there between presumption and not “doing the good we know we ought to do” (v17)?
9. Is there some good God wants you to do? Don’t presume you’ll have tomorrow to do it. Do it as soon as possible.