



BELIEVE IT.

James: A Bible Study

Begin each day with the following prayer:

*God, I ask your Holy Spirit to speak to me.
Show me the true image of who I am and where my faith is.
Give me courage to look honestly at my own reflection
and to do the work of becoming a more perfect person.*

■ DAY ONE

Are you conflicted?

In chapter 4 of James, we see a picture of what it's like to be conflicted.

READ through all of chapter 4. **NOTICE** the tension and conflict described throughout the chapter. **MAKE NOTE** of the words used to describe the conflict, chaos, discord, and disharmony.

If you have access to different Bible translations, **READ** through them and **NOTE** the various descriptions of the conflict.

■ DAY TWO

Using the **PERSONALIZE IT** Bible study method, **READ** James 4:1-3.

Are there areas in your own life in which you're conflicted?

Where do you sense you have a **foot in two worlds**?

In a relationship? Your finances? At work? Family?

From where does your frustration and confusion come?

What passions are at war?

What does your reflection reveal about **what you say vs. what you do**?

In what ways are you living **out of sync**?

TAKE TIME to write or say a prayer of confession.

RECEIVE the forgiveness God provides through confessing your sins.

TAKE a step toward becoming a good person through whom good things naturally flow.

■ DAY THREE

You've got one foot on the dock and one foot in the boat.

Choose one or end up in the water.

READ James 1:22-25.

Recognizing we have one foot on the dock and the other in the boat is the **looking in the mirror** part. But merely recognizing the situation doesn't solve the problem. In fact, if we stop there, we deceive ourselves all the way into the water.

LOOK at the areas you identified and confessed which cause frustration and conflict in your life. What does your selfish desire say about it? What do the passions and desires of Christ say about it?

■ DAY FOUR

READ James 4:7-10.

James is difficult and possibly **painful**, like having a splinter removed from that tender spot in your foot.

You see it. You feel the pain of its presence, yet something inside fights against just taking it out!

This translation describes the **conflict** in letting go of our sin.

"So let God work his will in you...

Quit dabbling in sin.

Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field.

Hit bottom and cry your eyes out...

Get serious, really serious.

Get down on your knees before the Master;

it's the only way you'll get on your feet."

James 4:7-10 (The Message)

What does God want to do in/about/through your conflict?

What would it look like to let Him work it out in your life?

■ DAY FIVE

Go back to day four and **RE-READ** James 4:7-10 above.

At what point are you in the process described?

Is this where you want to be?

Is this where God wants you to be?

Why or why not?

READ James 1:4 using the **PARAPHRASE IT** method.

This is the path to living a life of **perfection** —

Being in harmony and synergy with God, ourselves and each other.

This is the path to **being perfect**.

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