



BELIEVE IT.

James: A Bible Study

ARE YOU CONFLICTED?

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?
Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

James 4:1 ESV

ARE YOU PERFECT?

"...that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

James 1:4b ESV

*To be perfect (in the Hebrew sense),
is to be in harmony with ourselves.*

*Harmony with ourselves is harmony between
what we believe inwardly and how we live outwardly.*

WHAT CAUSES US TO BE CONFLICTED?

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?
Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

²You desire and do not have, so you murder.
You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.

You do not have, because you do not ask.
³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly,
to spend it on your passions.

James 4:1-3 ESV

Our passions are at war.

We're frustrated because we can't have what we want.

We're selfish and want this to be about our own passions.

There's a collision of our spiritual life and human nature.

**You've got one foot on the dock and one foot in the boat.
Choose one or end up in the water.**

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep.

Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 4:6-10 ESV

God's grace is His opposition to your pride.

Purify yourself. Get rid of objectionable elements.

You're afflicted. Realize your own misery.

Be meek. Meekness is great power under control.

We're powerless to save ourselves.

**We live conflicted lives because we have a foot in two worlds.
James exposes how this leads to quarrels, fighting, and misery.**

**God calls us to step into living ~ to live 'perfect' lives
~ in HARMONY with Him, with ourselves, and with each other.**



NEXT STEPS

*Where's your **INTERNAL** conflict coming from?*

DECISIONS, FAITH, BELIEFS

*Where's your **EXTERNAL** conflict coming from?*

HOME, SCHOOL, WORK, RELATIONSHIPS

For further study:

40 Days In The Word workbook

Bible Study Methods by Rick Warren (available at JW bookstore)

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