

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Nov 2017

FAITH IN ACTION: #7: SUBMITTING TO GOD PART 1

INTRODUCTION

Do you think God prefers to give without asking or giving in response to a request? Why?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read James 4:1-6

Note: James devotes much space in his letter to what Jewish believers should do. He does not neglect to emphasize, however, what they should be. Faith must be internalized.¹ It will then naturally affect what we do. Most Christians were poor compared to the rich Jews that oppressed them in the synagogues.

1. What is the root of fights and quarrels? (vv 1-2a)
2. How have you seen this demonstrated at home? At work?
3. What are two reasons we don't have what we want? (vv 2b - 3) **Psalm 37:4**
4. How can we know if our motives are pure? (v 3)
5. What if we ask with a good motive and still don't get what we asked for? How have dealt with this in your own life?
6. Why does James call people adulterous? (v 4)
Note: Adultery - spiritually unfaithful to God, having a love affair with other gods. Our relationship with God is like the intimate relationship of husband and wife.
7. Why can't we be friends with the world and God at the same time? (v 4) **Matt 6:21, 33**
Note: World - value system of those who are separated from God
8. What helps you make the right choice? **Col 1:21-23; John 5:39-40**
9. Why does the Holy Spirit in us "envy"? (v 5)
10. Whom does God oppose and favor? Why? (v 6) (*humble - dependent on and responsive to God*)
Prov 3:34; 1 Pet 5:5; Isa 66:2; Matt 5:3; 23:12

APPLICATION

In what specific area of your life have you been a friend with the world? What do you need to do to change that relationship?

Worldliness is a spirit, a temperament, an attitude of soul. It is life without high callings, life devoid of lofty ideals. Its gaze is horizontal, never vertical. Its goal is success, not holiness. Hearing no mystic voices, it is destitute of reverence. It never bows in rapt and silent wonder in the secret place. It experiences no awe-inspiring perceptions of a mysterious presence. God is not denied. He is forgotten or ignored. – *Faith That Works, Zondervan*

– **Make a Life, Not Just a Living.** *Dr. Ron Jensen*

¹ *The teacher's Bible commentary.* 1972 (F. H. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs, Ed.) (784). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.