

“Say Goodbye To Half-Hearted Christian Living” James 4: 1-10

INTRODUCTION: A Common Conversation Between A Believer And A Non-Believer

- Seeker
- Saved
- Spiritually Mature
- Significant Ministry

A Moment Of Clarity

1. The problem for many Christians: _____.
(vv.1-3)
 - What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?
(James 4:1—New Living Translation)
 - Instead of aggressively grabbing what we want, we should submit ourselves to God, ask God to help us get rid of our selfish desires, and trust Him to give us what we really need.
(Life Application Bible)
2. A needed clarification: _____. (v.4)
 - James doesn't mean the beauty of the world; he means the world system, which is bent on hostility against God. That motivation rejects God's provision and pursues its own desires with a worldly attitude that says, "Fight for your way" Don't ever give in!"
(The Swindoll Study Bible)
 - Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.
(Psalm 37:4—New International Version)

A Checklist To Evaluate Your Heart

1. Are you putting God in His _____? (v.7)
 - So let God work His will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet yes to God and He'll be there in no time.
(The Message—James 4:7)
2. Are you putting the Devil in his _____?
 - Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (v. 7b)
3. Are you taking steps toward _____? (v. 8)
 - The important daily choice: digging in deeper or drifting away from a close relationship with Jesus. (Spiritually Mature or Spiritually Dry)
 - Coming near to God means to get as close as possible to God. Get right next to Him. Begin to talk and share with Him. (By reading God's Word and through Prayer)
(The Teacher's Outline and Study Bible)
4. Are you dealing with sin in a _____? (v. 8)
 - Repentance means being so sorry for your meanness that you ain't going to do it anymore. (Evangelist Sam Jones)
5. Are you simply going through _____? (v. 9)
 - We must take inventory of our sinfulness and weakness, then bow in total submission to God, yielding our total being, our dreams, our future, our everything to Him. It is then that He will pour on the grace—grace upon grace—grace heaped upon grace. And He will lift you up!
(R. Kent Hughes)

CONCLUSION: Say Hello To Renewal (v. 10)

- The Principle of Renewal (Acts 3: 19-20)
- Seeker > Saved > Spiritual Maturity > Significant Ministry