

Repeated Words, Themes, and Ideas

7. We are the source of a failed (foolish, faithless, ungodly, selfish) life, when we pursue what we want Satan's way, we war, fight, lust, murder, covet, and even recruit God to give us our sinful desires. We make ourselves God's enemies when we befriend Satan's worldly ways; we end up being the proud that God resists, 4:1-6. Those who want to exalt themselves will refuse to submit to God and resist the Devil. They won't draw near to God or repent of their sinful, double-minded ways. They won't turn their gleeful, sinful laughter into mourning. They'll refuse to humble themselves in the sight of the Lord, 4:7-10. When we set ourselves as judge over our brother or sister, we speak evil of God's Law and judge God's Law, thus, taking God's place as Judge, Lawgiver, Savior, and Destroyer, 4:11-12. Those who think that they can predict their future, who bank on their business being profitable next year, should realize that they can't even predict whether or not they'll be alive tomorrow. Life is that fragile. Such boasting is evil: to know the right thing and refuse to do it is sin, 4:13-14, 16-17 (other places this appears: 1:6-8, 11, 13-15, 22-24, 26; 2:1-13, 14-17, 18-19; 3:6, 9-10, 14-16).
8. God is the source of a victorious (wise, faithful, godly, selfless) life, when we find ourselves in a complete mess, warring, fighting, lusting, coveting, all we have to do is remember that God yearns for us jealously. He will give us more grace: yes, He resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble, 4:1-6. If we want a place of honor and prominence, we must humble ourselves before God. We must submit to God and resist the Devil; if we do, he will flee. If we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. Thus, we must repent, cleanse our sinful, double-minded ways and turn our sinful joy and laughter to mourning and lament, 4:7-10. We must not think that we have the power to control our future; instead, we must realize that our life is but a vapor and depends on God's will to continue and thrive. We must know what is right and do it, 4:13-17 (other places this appears: 1:2-5, 9, 10 [1:4, 11, 12], 12, 19-20, 21, 25, 27; 2:5, 21-23, 25; 3:13, 17-18).
9. Tongue / Speech, James' audience must not use their speech to speak evil of their brethren. To do so is to speak evil of God's Law, which is to set ourselves above God as Lawgiver, 4:11-12 (other places this appears: 1:19; 3:1, 2, 3-5, 6, 7-12, 13, 14, 15-18).
10. Judge / Judgment, James' audience must not judge their brethren. To do so is to judge God's Law, which is to take God's place as Judge, Lawgiver, Savior, and Destroyer, 4:11-12 (other places this appears: 1:13; 2:1-4, 6, 9, 13; 3:1).
11. Doer-of-God's-Word vs. Hearer-Only-of-God's-Word, a *Doer-of-God's-Word* will refuse to war, fight, lust, murder, and covet to get what they want. They will ask God and not selfishly. They'll refuse friendship with the world, thereby enmity with God. They'll live humbly by God's Spirit and receive His grace. They'll submit to God and resist the Devil. They'll repent in mourning of their gleeful, sinful ways and let the Lord exalt them. They won't play Judge, Lawgiver, Savior or Destroyer by speaking evil of or judging their brethren. They won't presume to control their future knowing full well that such boasting is evil and that their life and prosperity depends on God. They will know what is good and do it. But a *Hearer-Only-of-God's-Word* will do the opposite of each of these, 4:1-17 (other places this appears: 1:2-5 vs. 1:6-8; 1:9-10, 12 vs. 1:11, 13-15; 1:19, 21-22 vs. 1:20, 22; 1:23-24 vs. 1:25; 1:26 vs. 1:27; 2:1-13, 14-26; 3:13-18).