

## James 4 Summarized

### Sentences

4:1, where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires* for pleasure that war in your members?

4:2-3, you lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

4:4-5, adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

4:6, but He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

4:7, therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

4:8-10, draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

4:11-12, do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

4:13-14, come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

4:15-16, instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

4:17, therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

## Paragraphs

4:1-5, when we give in to our powerful desires, we war, fight, lust, murder, and covet yet we fail to get what we want. We won't turn to God for help and if we do ask Him, we fail to obtain because we ask altogether selfishly. We befriend the world and make ourselves God's enemies. We become adulterers who give our allegiance—God's allegiance—to a sinful world. Was God wasting His breath when He said, "My Spirit who dwells in you yearns jealously for you"?

4:6-10, but God gives more grace, which is why He said, "I resist the proud, but give grace to the humble." Therefore, we must submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee. If we draw near to God, He'll draw near to us: we must cleanse our sinful, corrupt, two-timing ways. We must repent and turn our laughter into mourning. We must humble ourselves before the Lord, and He will lift us up.

4:11-12, we must not speak evil of or judge our brother or sister. To do this is to speak evil of and judge God's Law, which takes us from doer of the Law to judge of the Law. God is the only Lawgiver, Savior, and Destroyer. Who are we to judge another?

4:13-17, those who arrogantly say, "Today or tomorrow I will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit," ought to realize that they can't even guarantee tomorrow. Their life is but a vapor that appears and vanishes away. Instead, they ought to say, "If the Lord wills, I shall live and do this or that." All boasting to the contrary is evil. Therefore, to know the right thing and not do it is sin.

## Whole Chapter

[This is how you live life when you follow Satan's arrogance vs. God's humility:] when we give in to our powerful desires, we war, fight, lust, murder, and covet, yet we fail to get what we want. We don't ask God and if we do, we fail again because we ask altogether selfishly. We befriend the world and war against God when we should yearn for God as His Spirit—who dwells in us—yearns for us. But God is ever gracious, so, He says, "I resist the proud, but give grace to the humble." Therefore, we must submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee. If we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. If we humble ourselves before the Lord, if we repent of our sinful, corrupt, two-timing ways, then He will grant us our godly desires. We must see our brethren and ourselves through God's humility: we must not speak evil of or judge our brethren because God is the only Lawgiver, Savior, and Destroyer. Nor must we arrogantly boast about a prosperous future. Instead, we must see that our life is but a vapor and say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." Therefore, to know the right thing and not do it is sin.