

The Heart's Desires: The Battle

James 4:1-10
January 22, 2017

The Problem: Myself

James 4:1-3, Your/You is used twelve times in these three verses.

It is wanting:

- what I want
- how I want it
- when I want it
- it's all about me

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

Psalm 51:5

Our culture says its "okay", but before we get there, check this out!

To think I did all that;
And may I say - not in a shy way,
"Oh no, oh no not me,
I did it my way".

For what is a man, what has he got?
If not himself, then he has naught.
To say the things he truly feels;
And not the words of one who kneels.
The record shows I took the blows -
And did it my way!

Yes, it was my way. ~ **Jacques Revaux and Gilles Thibault, sang by Frank Sinatra**

I want to talk about me
Want to talk about I
Want to talk about number one
Oh my me my

What I think, what I like, what I know, what I want, what I see
I like talking about you, you, you, you usually, but occasionally
I want to talk about me
I want to talk about me ~ **Toby Keith**

It can't be all about me and God, it's got to be one or the other, and there is no middle ground.

These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Revelation 3:14-16

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

The root of all sin, including here in verses 1-5, is **pride and selfishness**.

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

James 4:6

"Sin is what I do when I am not satisfied with God". ~ **John Piper**

"If we don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because we have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because we have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Our soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great." ~ **John Piper**

I can't be full of myself and full of God!

I am the problem, but we often say it is everyone else (people).

The three Enemies that James speaks of:

1. **World** (verse 4)

I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **John 17:14-16**

2. **Devil** (verse 7)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **Ephesians 6:10-13**

3. **Flesh** (verse 5)

But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images¹⁴ (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God). **Exodus 34:13-14**

Our biggest problem is our self. It is not our spouse, relative, friend, coworker, job etc.

The Solution: What are we to do then, to rid ourselves of sin, friendship with the world and selfishness?

Submit – Yield

Wanting less of what I want and wanting more of what God wants. It is a dying to self.

Wait

Be silent.

Seek truth – Ask, "What is God's heart?"; don't follow your own.

Draw near

Time

Prayer

Scripture

Humble

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering. **Colossians 3:12**

It's seeking the right-**heart** attitude.

We are **nothing** without Jesus and everything with, because of Him.

True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. ~ **C.S. Lewis**

Why were the quarrels happening at the beginning of our passage? Thinking all about themselves.

Prayer Focus:

I would submit to God and not to myself and desires.

I would DAILY draw near to Jesus.

I would think more of others and less of myself.