

/Greetings./let's begin the 4th lecture on the book of James.

/The title of 4th chapter of James: Asking God.

/First, ask, without fighting./ Verse 1-5/ Second, the ways to receive more grace and blessings/ Verse 6-10/ Third, do not slander one another./ Verse 11-12./ Fourth, the wealth belongs to God./ Verse 13-17.

| /In **verse** 3:16 it tells us *where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*/ Quarrels and fights stem from greed.

| /In **verse** 4:1./ *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?*

/Desires from flesh are/ heart's fervent motion to sin./ Such desires cause quarrels.

/First,/ greed makes one fight with the owner of the very thing he desires./ King Ahab killed Naboth because he desired Naboth's vineyard.

/Second, arrogance causes fights./ Proverbs 13:10/ The disciples of Jesus fought over who was the greatest.

/Third, selfish ambition/ It means someone wants to be the first./ Diotrephes, in 3 John 1:9-10, liked to be the first./ Such fights appeared in 3 John was caused by selfish ambition.

/In verse 2,/ *you desire but you do not have.*/ Here *you do not have*/ means that one receives nothing/ and also that one loses what was already received./ One will not receive through wicked means, and even if he receives it, he loses sooner or later./ Hosea 2:7/ Proverbs 13:4

/When our heart becomes possessive or something/ it actually is a shortcut to lose it./ When we try to do something by ourselves, God does not work in us./ Thus, we have no reason to fret when something does not go on our way.

/Moreover, whenever we do not receive something earthly, we should repent./ That is, whenever we ask for something/ we ought to examine whether we have asked for our flesh.

/The result of depends on God's blessing with humanly efforts./ If God does not allow it,/ we cannot earn anything.

/It says, *You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.*/

/By *you do not ask*,/ it means you do not ask God in humility and holiness./ Ask only to gratify your flesh, God will not answer.

/In verse 3/ *When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives.*/ By

wrong motive,/ it manifests, first,/ when your prayer is to gratify your flesh desires and sins./ Proverbs 21:27

/Second,/ when you pray with bad intentions./ Luke 12:13/ shows some examples when one asks for health to indulge in worldly pleasures,/ or wealth to selfishly enjoy in expensive delicacies, / or power to gain fame.

/And last, when you ask for God's blessings for your own comfort instead of God's glory./ God does not enjoy such prayers,/ but instead He enjoys prayers who ask for forgiveness and grace.

/If so, how do we know if our prayers are for God's glory?/ First,/ by our daily thoughts./ We know by the thoughts that occupy us almost all the time.

/Second, by our attitudes towards prayer,/ if God is satisfied with them, we should be fine with it./ Thoughts of flesh things,/ they cause anxiety and worries./ John 12:27-28

/Third,/ by what we do after our answered prayers. If prayers that do not ask for God's glory are answered,/ those are used for our flesh./ Thus we should re-examine when our prayers have been answered.

/We must also examine whether we pray to gratify our flesh./ Any powerless prayers,/ even if those were answered,/ we should examine these, if we prayed for the sake of getting people's compliments./ For example, if our prayer asking for stability was not answered,/ that must be because we tried to live in earthly comforts.

/Whenever we ask for wealth but is not given,/ we should examine whether we asked to have worldly riches./ What God intends to give us/ is given to us when we ask according to God's will.

/Whenever God does not give us,/ it is when we asked either for wrong motives/ or for our greed.

/Verse 4 tells us/ *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God?*/ Then, we can say that being away from God and being closer to the world is a spiritual prostitution./ It says *friendship with the world.*/ It means when our heart turns to worldly pleasures or riches, we become subordinates to fleshly desires./ 1 John 2:15/ Proverbs 28:20

/To be friends with the world means to become an enemy to God./ To become an enemy with God is not what God desires./ God loves us still when we do something wrong./ But the relationship between us and God is bound to be disrupted whenever we commit sins.

/In verse 5/ *Or do you think Scripture says without reason/ that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?*/ This verse/ rebukes/ our flesh desires and jealousy.

/We must not take the Scripture in vain./ If we do something that God hates,/ how can we expect to receive God's grace and blessings?

/In verse 6/ *But he gives us more grace/ to whom does he do so?*/ Not to the proud. *God opposes the proud.*

/Arrogant people are also rude./ They also look down on people/ King Herod, Haman, and King Nebuchadnezzar were arrogant.

In 2 Chronicles 26:16/ King Uzziah was arrogant./ Since arrogance is a sin which opposes God, He despises such sin/ because it challenges God's sovereignty/ and tries to glorify itself.

/Some people boast by believing in its ability. /2 Timothy 6:17/ 2 Corinthians 12:7/ Those also wishes to be exalted./ Luke 14:11/ We might lose God's grace if we are arrogant./ We might lose our properties as well./ But sometimes there are people who are still arrogant even after their properties are lost.

/But God promise to give grace to the humble./ Humble people are those who let go of themselves./ They are those who repented.

/The examples of the humble are the centurion and a Canaan woman.

/In verse 7,/ *Submit yourselves, then, to God.*/ This is because God gives grace to the humble./ It also means to come forward with humility and ask for God's grace.

/It says *submit yourselves.*/ First manifestation of submission is/ complete compliance to God's will./ "Complete compliance" means/ to be at disposal to the God's will,/ and to give ourselves perfectly.

/Our thoughts,/ emotions,/ plans,/ behaviors and such/ should be guided by the God's Word./ Second manifestation is/ asking God with humility./ It means acknowledging our sins/ and throwing away our arrogance and stubbornness.

/Third manifestation is/ putting in God's providence./ Acts 21:14/ Every time we submit in front of God,/ we ought to act sincerely/ and joyful/ for the God's glory./ We can enjoy spiritual freedom once we submit ourselves.

/The other part of the verse tells us to *resist the devil.*/ One of its temptations is arrogance./ There are many other temptations-/ greed,/ ambition,/ rage,/ thoughts to betray,/ and intentionally keeping some of the offerings to God for oneself.

/In verses/ John 8:44/ Matthew 5:37/ [EphesiansEphesus](#) 4:26-27/ John 13:2/ and Acts 5:3/ talk about temptations respectively and we must resist such temptations./ We should resist the devil/ and not be afraid of it./ 1 Peter 5:10/ We also must cut any relationship we might have with the devil.

/ There are five methods to fight with the devil./ First, faith,/ second, prayer,/ third, sobriety,/ fourth, vigilance,/ and lastly, truth./ Devils always tries to enter us through cracks in our sinful mind./ [EphesiansEphesus](#) 4:27.

/It is like a dog near a dining table./ The dog will stay around the table if food falls under the table frequently./ If not, there is no reason for the dog to come and stay./ Likewise a sinful mind enters in us by taking chances./ Thus we should be more vigilant and resist the devil.

/To be vigilant/ does not mean we will open our eyes all the time and not sleep./ Spiritually speaking, a life which belongs to flesh is same as sleeping in spirit. / On the other hand, a life meditating God and His Words is a vigilant one.

/At the cross, Jesus Christ / said He is thirsty in the midst of pain./ What He said meant to fulfill the Word./ While we entirely and quickly lose God's Words in times of pain,/ Jesus/ remembered the words in Psalms in His agony at the cross.

/Jesus said He is fulfilling the prophecies./ When Judah Iscariot came to arrest Jesus,/ He could have called for the armies of the angels./ He could have escaped by the strength of the angels.

/Instead He said how the words in the Bible would ~~not~~ be fulfilled unless he be crucified. / This reveals that Jesus in every moment/ thought about God's words/ and saw those words being fulfilled.

/Jesus showed us how to live in abidance to God's holy and good will./ He was always vigilant./ When he was praying in Gethsemane,/ the disciples were sleeping.

/Through this,/ as vigilant Jesus was / we can guess how much vigilant we ought to be./ We are told not to shoo away the devil,/ but resist it.

/Then the Bible tells *he will flee away from us.*/ We can fight against the devil./ We should not stay put our faith and just watch it.

/In verse 8, it says/ *Come near to God/ and He will come near to you.*

/For the non-believers, it means to repent and believe in Jesus./ And for the believers,/ it means because we are prone to wander away from God,/ we ought to go nearer to Him.

/We move away from God when we commit sins./ Our spirits must come near to God./ Nearer to God./ Again, we move away from God when we commit sins.

/Our spirit must come forward to God./ Through Jesus Christ, we can always come near to Him/ Hebrews 10:19-20./ And also by faith. /Hebrews 10:22

/We also should come near with love./ Holiness./ Deuteronomy 10:3/ Also in fear, / Acts 2:25/ in humility. / Isaiah 57:15/ We must come to God who is our everything.

/Then God promised to be near us./ *Come near to us*, it means/ that through God's grace and blessings/ He will let us know that He is near us. / Psalms 145:18/ Isaiah 58:9/ Isaiah 65:24

/Wash your hands, you sinners,/ and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

/We must be holy to be near to God./ Matthew 5:8/ Psalms 24:3-4/ By *purifying hearts*,/ it means not only in our daily actions/ but in our thoughts as well.

/Instead of following God and the world both at the same time/ we must serve God only./ Thus the Bible tells us to *purify your hearts, you double-minded*.

/In verse 9/ *Grieve, mourn and wail.*/ by *grieve*,/ it means to be contrite and broken because of sin./ Isaiah 57:15/ Psalms 119:136/ Romans 12:15/ Psalms 51:3

/In Psalms 51, it says *my sin is always before me.*/ This world has more sorrows than joy -/ When we lose the help from the Holy Spirit, / when we have committed so manyuch sins,/ when fleshly desires become strong,/ when we feel intimidated by the judgment,/ when we seem to lose God's mercy we become low./ Romans 8:23/ Psalms 42:7/ Psalms 22:12/ John 16:20

/Whenever we encounter such situations,/ we may feel broken and become humble./ And such contrite heart helps us to be more resilient to the desires of the flesh./ Thus not all comfortable things are good;/ rather, the hardships God allows,/ these can humble us/ and make us grow more spiritually.

/In verse 10,/ it says *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*/ Here by *humble yourself*,/ it does not mean being mournful on the outside,/ but on the inside./ We should then act in fear and in trembling in front of God Almighty/ and let our center be focused on God./ Job 42:5-6/ Isaiah 6:5

/Job was humble before God/ and Isaiah saw his sins before God./ Lower yourself and God will exalt you./ Philipians 2:5-9./ 1 Peter 5:9.

/No matter what the circumstances,/ we should have the hope to be reconciled with God./ What makes us realize our knowledge on our difficulties/ and weaknesses,/ is humility./ Then we must learn to lower ourselves before God./ Wanting to be exalted/ and being greedy/ are not a form of lowering ourselves.

/In verse 11-12,/ it says *Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another.*/ whether we are speaking truth/ or false about someone/ we must not slander./ Psalms 15:3/ Leviticus 19:16/ There are many forms of slander./ One is gossip./ Gossiping of/ either a brother in Christ/ or a godly person.

/ Regardless of any particular person, mudslinging/ means when we openly speak ill of someone,/ bring false accusations/ or reveal the weakness of a brother in Christ/ while damaging his dignity as well./ It also includes exaggerating one's fault/ or ignoring-being his adversity.

/It is also being jealous of his good works for evil gains./ Pulling down its worth./ Such things are slander./ We must be careful not to slander another first./ Numbers 12:8/ We should not slander our religious leaders/ and also other people.

/When we hear somebody slandering someone else next time, we should ~~not~~ try not to listen to it./ If we listen to it,/ our ears,/ just like the tongue, might be sinning./ Just like uncontrolled tongue is wrong/ uncontrolled ears are wrong as well./ Proverbs 25:23

/Psalms 101:5/ Here, it says/ *Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence.*/ If we do not listen to the slanderous words,/ we might oppose our pastor much less./ The Book of James tells us/ *anyone who speaks against a brother or sister, or judges them speaks against the law and judges it.*

/How does judging the Law become a sin? / Because every sin is already disobeying the Law which says do not commit sins./ We humans are full of pride that we like to apply our opinions and standards onto others.

/As though our words are the creed,/ we rebuke everything we do not like./ Those who judge the Word is,/ in effect, disobeying the Word.

/In verse 12, it tells us/ *There is only one Lawgiver and Judge.*/ God is the only Lawgiver./ Isaiah 33:23/ Romans 13:5/ God is the only Lawgiver and the Judge.

/First,/ we should keep His commands in fear and trembling./ 1 Corinthians 10:22/ Matthew 10:28./ Second,/ we should obey with courage./ Psalms

68:20./ And third,/ we should be more humble when we broke His commands.

/who are you to judge your neighbor? James asks us./ It means/ whether we are aware of God's greatness compared to ours./ Whether we are aware how wrong it is to judge our neighbors./ How can we judge anything when we have nothing to present before God?

/Verse 13/ warns us of meaningless thoughts./ It warns us to listen./ It keeps on reminding us to prevent us from committing the aforementioned sins/ and to make us think wisely.

/Jeremiah 8:6/ This verse tells us that nobody asks to themselves, *What have I done?*/ Through the Word our conscience needs to be more awakened/ and live with our eyes toward God's Judgment seat.

/Flesh thoughts serve the flesh./ The verse 13 says, Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money./ If we keep on thinking about the worldly matters, we will be assured of the way the world does.

/The plan of spending a year might be extended to a longer period,/ and making money might lead us to think about the profits and the consequent success./ But our plan never goes the way we planned it to be./ Psalms 31:15/ Proverbs 27:1/ Ecclesiastes 9:1/ Jeremiah 10:23

/The following behaviors indicate our belief in ourselves and disobedience to God's will./ First,/ when we act without a prayer./ Job 22:27-28/ Second,/ instead of obeying His will, when we / become confident about what is actually uncertain/ and boast about human possibilities./ Exodus 15:11

/Third,/ When we forget about Him./ Fourth,/ when we mistakenly think that we will have the time to repent in the future.

/In verse 14,/ it says, Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow./ It means that we do not know about the misfortunes to come/ and life's uncertainty./ Planning for tomorrow is not a sin./ Proverbs 6:6-8 talks about the ant preparing during summer for the upcoming winter.

/Again, preparing for tomorrow is not a sin./ But we must do so by obeying God./ A preparation that deviates from God's Word is wrong./ Whether we earn money or do something,/ we must do so according to God's pleasing will.

/Following and acting upon flesh desires are not right./ The examples are spending the money reserved for tithe in opening a business,/ and going to work on Lord's Day instead of church./ We may become rich and prosperous with those,/ but only for a short time. We are like a mist that appears a while and then vanishes.

/Read the verse, it says, You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes./ Because life is so short,/ we ought not to worry too much about worldly matters and plans./ Doing so might affect our spiritual growth.

/A ship goes faster with lesser cargos./ We must then have a spiritual plan because our life is so short.

/In verse 15,/ If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that/ While we are living in this world,/ we must strive to live a holy life./ And must strive to

live according to God's will./ 1 Corinthians 4:19/ 1 Corinthians 16:7/ Romans 1:10/ Philippians 2:19

/We must depend everything onto God./ We must reflect our actions based on His Word/ and must have a peaceful heart knowing that God is with us./ We must also receive God's permission to do something/ by praying and asking hard about it.

/Moreover, we must keep in mind of God's providence/ and must have God's go-signal,/ with our mind prepared and awake. [Proverbs 16:9.](#)

[In verse 16, it is said, "As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil."](#)

/The second chapter of James rebuked boasting of worldly riches,/ being godly only with mouths,/ and bragging faith ~~lack~~ ~~without~~ actions and it is vague./ The chapter 3 rebuked/ those who criticize and/ pretend to be wise.

/Chapter 4 speaks about those who trust themselves, who think they hold their fate/ and are free from God's reign./ That is the meaningless thought./ Chapter 4 rebukes that.

/Instead of fearing God's Words,/ they are filled with pride, that they plan out their future/ and live according to their own. That is what is so wicked.

/The verse 17 tells us/ *If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them/* Ignorance is a sin also./ John 9:14/ John 15:22/ 1 Timothy 1:13/ Luke 12:47/ 2 Peter 3:5/ Romans 14:21/ Knowing good is not enough./ We must act at goodness.

/The verse tells us that not doing the good which we know is sin./ Committing a sin which we know it.

/Not doing the good thing we know/ is as much a horrible sin as of lying when we know the truth.

/In this chapter, we learned how acting and living according to our greed and desires are all meaningless./ An arrogant person is who believes he can do something on his own./ We are like a morning mist./ What we must do in this short life is,/ to speak yes to God's will, whether it is to this/ or that.

/And when we live with such mindset,/ we will be able to show His glory/ and please Him.

/This is the end the 4th lecture on the book of James.

/God bless you.