

## James 4:1-6

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**Verse 1:** “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?” This is a continuation of the closing thoughts of chapter three. The sensual desires that fed the selfish false “wisdom” discussed there are the motivations for such sins as wars (the sinful kind; the opposite of a “just war”) and fightings. Carnal, selfish desires, only rationalized by corrupted human “wisdom,” lead to all of man’s problems.

**Verse 2:** “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.” All of man’s lusts can never be satisfied. A man who is not content with the wife of his youth will continually lust after other men’s wives, but will never find fulfillment in them. Those who lust after and steal and kill for material gain will always desire more. Rather than asking God for things needed for life after having kept the kingdom of God the priority (Mat. 6:25-34), those who selfishly lust after the things belonging to others will continue to lack contentment because their hearts are in the wrong place.

**Verse 3:** “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” Such people are asking for the wrong things. By way of example, I highly doubt that God ever answers a prayer for a Ferrari or a Lamborghini. These luxurious toys are not inherently sinful, but they certainly could never be classified as “needs.” A person may have a true need for reliable transportation and, therefore, may pray to God for such, but we must be careful to distinguish between true needs and materialistic, carnal desires.

**Verse 4:** “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” Whether James is referring to literal adulterers and adulteresses, or spiritual adulterers and adulteresses (those who are placing other things before God in priority; essentially, idolaters), the point is that man cannot be a friend of the world (WORLDLY) and be the friend of God. Those who, in their own faulty “wisdom,” believe that they can dedicate their lives both to God and fleshly pursuits are sadly mistaken.

**Verse 5:** “Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?” See also Gal. 5:16-17. James appears to, rather than quote one particular passage, refer to the overall Scriptural teaching that human beings have a selfish tendency toward envy. Observe two or three young children playing together and you will likely see this play out quickly, as the children tussle over their favorite toys. Selflessness is something that must be learned, and wise parents will teach it diligently to their children. Otherwise, this tendency toward selfishness will grow and grow until the children become self-absorbed, entitled, and spoiled to the core.

**Verse 6:** “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” God’s grace is available to all who will accept it by obeying His will. But in order to do that, both in initially obeying the Gospel and in CONTINUING faithfully, one must be willing to humble himself. How many people have not become Christians simply because they were not willing to humble themselves? Far too many, I’m sure! This sad truth will continue till the end of time.