

14. What is the advantage of having a confession in our services together? How can we ensure that this doesn't just become a form of words that trip of the tongue without us really meaning it? (Take a look ahead to chapter 5 verse 16 at what James says about confession.)

15. **Humble yourselves** (v10). What does it mean to humble ourselves before the Lord and how does it fit with "submit" in v7? What promises are contained in verses 10 and 6?

*You might also like to look up Luke 14.11 & 18.14, Prov 25.6-7 & 29.23 and 1 Pt 5.5.*

## Pray

Spend some time either in quiet or led prayer reflecting on the six things we have just been reading about in v6-10.

Pray for the open air service at school and that the weather would permit it to be open air. Pray that people would come from the Church and school and for the worship, teaching, fun and fellowship.

Pray for our newly elected government and for the uncertainty there currently seems to be in our our own nation and others around the world. Pray that in the midst of this people would turn to the Lord and that we would remember that it is righteousness that exalts a nation whilst sin is a reproach to any people (Prov 14.34).

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## James

### Week 6 : The War Within



#### Read James 4.1-5

1. Think of a quarrel or fight you have seen or been part of. What was the reason for the quarrel on the surface? What do you think was going on underneath?

2. Can you see the truth of verse 1 in this situation?

3. On its own verse 2 could be misused to argue that we should pray for what we desire rather than covet, murder, quarrel etc. How does verse 3 squash such an idea and how should it help us in our prayers?

4. What do you think it means to be "a friend of the world"? How does this make us enemies of God?

5. What problems or pressures to our faith can there be in having close non-Christian friends, or indeed family? Are we therefore being told not to be close friends with non-Christians? (See 1 Corinthians 5.9-10.

6. **Read John 17.14-18.** Jesus was known as “friend of sinners” and say he has sent us into the world. How can we ensure that we follow the advice based on these verses that we should be “in the world but not of the world”?

*Verse 5 is difficult and the scholar Erasmus said there were “wagon-loads of interpretations of this passage”. It isn’t clear whether it is referring to the Holy Spirit in us or our soul/spirit. The quotation isn’t found in any single verse but rather reflects what we see in the Old Testament - the conflict between our desires and God’s will.*

## **Fighting humbly**

*In the following verses are six things we should do in the war within.*

### **Read James 4.6-10**

7. **Submit** (v7a) How does this instruction follow from verse 6? What promise does the quotation from Proverbs 3.24 contain?

8. **Resist** (v7b) We are told to resist the devil. What is the danger if we forget what it says in 1 Peter 5.8?

9. What promise does v7b contain. Based on this promise should we fear the devil if we are properly prepared? If you have time you might also ask the same question based on Ephesians 6.11-13 & 16?

10. **Draw near** (v8a). What does it mean to draw near to God? What promise are we given in v8a?

11. **Cleanse & purify** (v8b). Without taking hands and hearts too literally, what is the significance of being told to “cleanse you hands” and “purify your hearts”? Why these two things?

12. **Mourn & weep** (v9). This verse might sound a bit miserable but what is the point behind it?

13. Do you have a pattern of personal prayer that includes confession and if so what do you do?