



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, lead us and direct us in Your path. When we study Your Word fill us with wisdom, knowledge, intelligence, and understanding. Help us to see people whom have a need if it is; spiritual, fellowship or prayer. Refresh in us Your mercy and compassion. Refresh Your grace in us to do all that You have called us to do. Lord have mercy I ask on the people for they know not what they do, save them Lord. I ask it in Your name. Amen.

Worship Music

[Virtual Choir, 2000 voices together via internet- "Sleep"](#)

["Light and Gold"-Eric Whitacre, 2000 voices singing via internet](#)

[The Face-Ryan and Dan](#)

[Tears Of A Angel-Ryan and Dan](#)

Scripture

James 4 (2005)

James 4:1-17 (AMP)

¹ WHAT LEADS to strife (discord and feuds) *and* how do conflicts (quarrels and fightings) originate among you? Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are ever warring in your bodily members? ² You are jealous *and* covet [what others have] and your desires go unfulfilled; [so] you become murderers. [To hate is to murder as far as your hearts are concerned.] You burn with envy *and* anger and are not able to obtain [the gratification, the contentment, and the happiness that you seek], so you fight and war. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ [Or] you do ask [God for them] and yet fail to receive, because you ask with wrong purpose and evil, selfish motives. Your intention is [when you get what you desire] to spend it in sensual pleasures.

⁴ You [are like] unfaithful wives [having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God]! Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose that the Scripture is speaking to no purpose that says, The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us *and* He yearns for the Spirit [to be welcome] with a jealous love?

⁶ But He gives us more and more grace (power of the Holy Spirit, to meet this evil tendency and all others fully). That is why He says, God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it). ⁷ So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God and He will come close to you. [Recognize that you are] sinners, get your soiled hands clean; [realize that you have been disloyal] wavering individuals with divided interests, and purify your hearts [of your spiritual adultery]. ⁹ [As you draw near to God] be deeply penitent and grieve, even weep [over your disloyalty]. Let your laughter be turned to grief and your mirth to dejection *and* heartfelt shame [for your sins]. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves [feeling very insignificant] in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you [He will lift you up and make your lives significant].

¹¹ [My] brethren, do not speak evil about or accuse one another. He that maligns a brother or judges his brother is maligning *and* criticizing the Law *and* judging the Law. But if you judge the Law, you are not a practicer of the Law but a censor *and* judge [of it]. ¹² One only is the Lawgiver *and* Judge Who is able to save and to destroy [the One Who has the absolute power of life and death]. [But you] who are you that [you presume to] pass judgment on your neighbor?

¹³ Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such *and* such a city and spend a year there and carry on our business and make money. ¹⁴ Yet you do not know [the least thing] about what may happen tomorrow. What is the nature of your life? You are [really] but a wisp of vapor (a puff of smoke, a mist) that is visible for a little while and then disappears [into thin air].

¹⁵ You ought instead to say, If the Lord is willing, we shall live and we shall do this or that [thing]. ¹⁶ But as it is, you boast [falsely] in your presumption *and* your self-conceit. All such boasting is wrong.

¹⁷ So any person who knows what is right to do but does not do it, to him it is sin.

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James 4:1–17. Worldly Mindedness

Covetousness (vv. 1–2). Covetousness, the desire to get that which belongs to others, has been the cause of most wars.

Unanswered prayer (v. 3). Some prayers go unanswered because they are nothing but requests for the gratification of our worldly desires.

Double-mindedness (vv. 4–10). An expansion of Jesus' statement that a person cannot serve God and mammon (Matthew 6:24), and similar to John's warning against love of the world (1 John 2:15–17). Such passages suggest the need of unceasing self-examination. We have to live in the world, and worldly things are necessary for our daily subsistence, but it requires great watchfulness to keep our affections and our hearts focused on the things that are above. We need constantly to draw near to God, to cleanse our hands, to purify our hearts, and to humble ourselves.

The tongue again (James 4:11–12). This time James shows the utter absurdity of one sinner setting himself up as judge over another sinner.

If it is the Lord's will (vv. 13–17). One of the most amazing doctrines of Scripture is that God, with the infinite universe on His hands, yet has a definite plan for each of His people (Acts 18:21 ; Romans 1:10 ; 15:32 ; 1 Corinthians 4:19 ; 1 Peter 3:17). (Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; Zondervan; 2000; history & commentaries; page 870)

The Love Of The World; VV2-3 Often we don't receive the things we ask of God because the motivation in our hearts is wrong. **V4** James here addresses the Church as the Bride of Christ. He accuses her of spiritual adultery for her love of the things of the world. **V5** The Spirit of God wants our love and commitment for Himself exclusively. When He sees us devoting ourselves to the world and material things, He is jealous of our misplaced devotion. **V7** We don't have to succumb to the lure of worldly things when Satan holds them before us. God will protect us if we ask for His help. **V8** God wants us to be concerned with Him and with spiritual things. He knows that the worldly things which tempt us would only leave us dissatisfied. **V15** We should preface our plans with the condition, "if the Lord wills....." (New Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; commentaries)

I believe James is saying to us in James 4:1, 2, "You stay upset all the time because you try to get all the things you want through your own efforts. You are never going to get them that way. You are just going to end up being jealous, hating people, and having bad relationships because you want what they have."

Then James summarizes the whole situation in one sentence: "You do not have, because you do not ask" (James 4:2). Essentially, he points to how we try to get things ourselves instead of asking God for them.

You may think, "But I *have* asked God for things; He just has not given them to me."

If you ask God for something and He does not give it to you, the reason is not that He is holding out on you. It may be that it is not His will or that now is not His time. It may be that there is something better He wants to give you, but you are not yet spiritually mature enough to have it. Whatever the reason, it is never because He does not want you to be blessed.

You are God's child, and He loves you. He is a good God Who only does good things, and He wants to do for you so much more than you could possibly imagine (see Ephesians 3:20). But He loves you too much to give you something that is going to hurt you. He loves you too much to give you things that will ultimately make you more carnal or more fleshly or that may even drag you into sin because you are not yet ready to handle them.

Does a loving parent give his children the keys to the car before they are old enough to drive? Of course not, because the parent knows they may get hurt in a wreck through their inexperience. God is the same way with His children. Because He loves us, He will not give us something before we have the spiritual maturity to handle it.

Many people use manipulation and worldly ways to get things they have no business having—and those very things end up ruining them.

I have discovered that the secret of being content is to ask God for what I want and to rest in the knowledge that if it is right, He will bring it to pass at the right time. If it is not right, He will not do it, if it is out of His will; it will not be done, if there is something wrong with it that will harm us; it will not be done; if it is a test we will go through it; but His grace will be there to go through; if we want something that belongs to someone else, we will not get it, we

should never ask for something else someone else owns, or whom they are married to that is not God. Sometime later if we do not get something we ask for in prayer, He may show us that there was something wrong with that plan, or He may show us that was not His planning, it has to be His will. (Example; in 2004 some farm land, became available, we went and looked at it and decided it was the right place for the ministry and business, I walked around the land and claimed it.....nothing happened....later I found out the house and buildings had been well maintained, but the plumbing and all the wiring would probably have to have been replaced, it probably would have cost as much to redo all that as the land cost, so it was not being a good steward of what God wanted to provide.

All human beings have evil tendencies, but James 4:6 teaches us that God will give us more and more grace to deal with these tendencies. I spent much of my Christian life trying to overcome my own wrong motives and intentions. All my trying brought much frustration. I had to come to a place of humility(and sometimes brokenness). I needed to learn that God gives grace to the humble, not the proud (see 1 Peter 5:5). We have our own ideas about what we can accomplish, but often we think more highly of ourselves than we ought. We need humble attitudes, knowing that apart from God, we can do nothing. If you are planning your own way, trying to make things happen in the strength of your own flesh, then no doubt you are frustrated. You probably have said, "No matter what I do, nothing seems to work!" Nothing will ever work until you learn to trust in God's grace. Relax. Let God be God. Stop being so hard on yourself. Change is a process; it comes little by little. You are on your way to perfection, so enjoy the trip.

We must remember that the devil is not going to just sit back and allow us to take new ground without putting up a fight. Any time we make progress in building the kingdom of God, our enemy is going to come against us. But James 4:7 says that he will flee if we submit to God and resist the enemy. Many times we make the mistake of trying to use faith to get to the place where we have total freedom from trouble. What we do not realize is that the purpose of faith is not always to keep us from having trouble; it is often to carry us *through* trouble. If we never had trouble, we would never need faith. Although we are tempted to run away from our problems, the Lord says that we are to go through them. The good news is that He promises we will never have to go through them alone. He will always be there to help us in every way. He tells us, "Fear not, for I am with you." In our daily experience, we must learn to stand our ground and run the devil off our property and drive him out of different areas of our lives. Learning to be stable in hard times is one of the best ways to do this. Remember, the devil will oppose you, but you have the power to resist him—and he will flee!

Do you like to plan excessively? Some people seem to have their lives all figured out. They map out a plan for their career, their family, their retirement years, and their financial portfolios. While it is wise to prepare and plan, the Word of God reminds us that we actually do not know what tomorrow will bring (see James 4:13-15). However, we can depend completely on God, and trust Him fully with our lives. Ask God to continue to reveal His will for your life to you—and be willing to adjust your plans accordingly.

Did you know that you can sin by *not* doing something? You can, according to James 4:17. Committing evil deeds is certainly sinful, but so is failing to do what you know God wants you to do. Spend time praying and reading your Bible so you can grow in your understanding of sinful practices to avoid and learn to actively engage in what

(Amplified Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; 2005; Joyce Meyers; Scripture, notes, commentaries; pages 2066 -2069)
(Word 9; Bible Software; KJV; Amp; Sermons of Historical pastors; Scripture; concordance; reference materials; 2010)

Psa 119:105
Thy word [is] a lamp unto
my feet, and a light unto my path.



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