

# Show me your faith

James 2:18

## 7. By Surrendering Yourself to God

### James 4:1-12

<sup>1</sup> What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? <sup>2</sup> You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. <sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

<sup>4</sup> You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? <sup>6</sup> But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

<sup>11</sup> Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

### 1. This is a strong rebuke of your rotten routines!

#### ▲ Stop the selfish squabbling

James 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? <sup>2</sup> You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

#### ▲ Stop the sensual striving and spending

James 4:2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. <sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

#### ▲ Stop the slanderous speaking

James 4:11 Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

### 2. There is a spiritual struggle remaining in you!

#### ▲ You are worldly on the outside

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

#### ▲ You are warring on the inside

James 4:5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?

### 3. There is sufficient resourcing when you're ready!

#### ▲ Grace is available for the having

James 4:6 But he gives us more grace.

#### ▲ Grace is absent from the haughty

James 4:6 That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud"

#### ▲ Grace is abundant for the humble

James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

#### ▼ Relinquish the leadership of your life

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God.

#### ▼ Resist the devil and his deception

James 4:7 Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

#### ▼ Return to loving the Lord and lingering longer

James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you.

#### ▼ Repent of your disobedience and duplicity

James 4:8 Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

#### ▼ Receive the lift from the Lord

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

### Action Assignments

1. Call your carnality onto the carpet, Christian!
2. Humble your hard-headed heart, honey!
3. Go to God for greater grace, girls and guys!