

JAMES 4:1-3 A CLOSER LOOK UNDER THE HOOD OF EARTHLY WISDOM

“What is causing the **QUARRELS** and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.” New Living Translation



DIRECTIONAL QUESTIONS

1. What do you think causes quarrelling and fights among you ~ with your friends, parents, or siblings?
2. What do you think are the “evil desires” that are at war within you?
3. Have you ever been jealous of something someone else had? How did you handle it?
4. Why do you think motives are so important when you are seeking wisdom from God?

BACKROAD DRIVING

SELFISHNESS is the gas that fuels jealousy. And jealousy is the gas that fuels quarrelling and fighting. We have learned in James that what goes on in the inside will be reflected on the outside. The desires of our hearts will overflow into our everyday lives. If we are self-centered and judgmental, we will reflect favoritism, actions without faith, anger, and a sour tongue. If we are God-centered, we will reflect joy, mercy, loving others as ourselves, peace, righteousness, and godly wisdom. Evil desires are just that ~ EVIL. Quarrelling and fighting are NEON signs of the selfishness growing in our hearts. When our desire to WANT something overrides our desire to wait and listen for God's direction, we should expect quarrelling and fighting. WHY? Because when our goal is to GET WHAT we WANT when we WANT, God is out of the equation. We are operating in selfish motivation. God **wants** us to make decisions that will reflect His character, but He will never MAKE us. The choice is ours. We have the freedom to choose which hood to look under ~ the hood of earthly wisdom or the hood of godly wisdom. I pray you choose God's.

ADDITIONAL SIGHTSEEING

LOOK UP: Romans 2:8,
Proverbs 18:1,
1 Corinthians 13:4-6,
Philippians 2:1-4
What do these verses teach us about selfishness? (Answers on bottom)



Lord, I pray that when I sense quarrelling and fighting in my spirit that I will quickly examine my heart and my motives. I pray to ask YOU for YOUR wisdom and not seek my personal agenda. I pray to be a reflection of YOU! Amen.

DEFINITION : QUARRELS

1. a dispute, an argument
2. A war, a fight, a battle

Last week we looked closely at two kinds of wisdom, worldly and heavenly. James explained that God's wisdom is characterized by living a life that is humble, peaceful, and bears good fruit. Today we are taking a closer look at what causes quarreling and fighting. **Looking under the hood** of earthly wisdom we will find that quarrelling takes root in jealousy and selfish motivation. Jealousy is a dangerous way to drive and can only lead us into some bad traffic.



Kate had had enough of her big sister. Sally was always accusing her of being mean, taking things out of her room, and not doing her chores. But THIS was the icing on the cake. Sally had blamed Kate for taking AND losing the watch she had gotten for Christmas. Sally was furious. You could hear the evil words coming from her mouth and you could almost see the fumes coming out of her head. THIS WAS WAR! But Kate was innocent. She had NOT taken her sister's watch. Sally was being completely selfish and accusing Kate of something she did not do. Sally's motives were to get Kate in BIG TROUBLE. What should she do? The last thing she wanted was another fight with her sister.

Sally's motives were all wrong. She falsely accused her little sister for taking her watch when the responsibility was hers alone. Quarrelling is often caused by the evil desires we have inside our own hearts. Remember last week we studied that peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness? When we are jealous and fighting, we are **not** sowing peace ~ we are planting our own selfish motives, resulting in “disorder and every evil practice” (James 3:16). Quarrelling is a car wreck waiting to happen. Focus on the road and **Follow God's Direction** for wisdom.

“THE WARS AMONG US ARE CAUSED BY THE WARS WITHIN US” WARREN LJERSBE

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