

A Faith That Comes Down To Earth

James 4:1-10

“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
– James 4:4

1. The Fruit of Misplaced Friendship

a. Conflict With Others (vv. 1-2)

“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.”

b. Conflict With God (vv. 3-5)

“You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

2. The Source of Our Friendship With God (v. 6)

“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” –Philippians 2:12-13

3. The Path To Friendship With God (vv. 7-10)

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”