

Thursday

Read James 4:11–12. Have you ever been lied about or slandered? How have you done this to others?

When do you face the greatest temptation to judge others?

How does the idea of God being the only Lawgiver and Judge help you to “resign as general manager of the universe?”

How does the idea of God’s sovereignty, or ultimate control, help you to not slander and judge others?

Thank God today for being the One True Judge. Ask Him to help you show love and mercy to others.

Friday

Read James 4:13–17 and Jeremiah 29:11. When in your life have you made plans that you were absolutely sure of... but that ended up being changed?

How does trusting your future to the Lord free you from worrying about it?

What plans are you making now that you need to give to God?

Thank God today for His total control of your future. Thank Him that His plans for you are best and are motivated by His love for you.

Saturday

Finish up any days you may have missed and polish up that memory verse. Please be in prayer for services this Palm Sunday weekend and for Easter services next week. Easter is a great opportunity to invite people to church! Be praying about who you will invite.



Curing My “I” Problem

March 20 & 21, 2010 • René Schläepfer
James 4:1–12

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? 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. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. *James 4:1–3*

The foundation of peace is realizing two facts:

1. _____
2. _____

The key cause of stress: _____
“Putting myself, my wants, my plans, my desires, at the center of my universe.”

An “I” exam: 4 symptoms of “I” disease from James 4

- 1. I am quick to _____**
What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you?
James 4:1
- 2. I have an obsession with _____**
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. *James 4:2b–3 (NLT)*
- 3. I take joy in _____**
Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it... *James 4:11a*
- 4. I plan without _____**
Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. *James 4:13–14*

How to cure my “I” problem:

1. Recognize the _____ of selfishness

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

2. Resign as _____

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? *James 4:12*

Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” *James 4:15*

3. Realign _____

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

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

But He gives us even more **grace** to stand against such evil desires. . .

God opposes the proud but gives **grace** to the humble. *James 4:6*

The key: God’s _____

Daily Meditations

Monday

Review your notes from this past weekend. What points really stuck out for you, and why?

In which of the first four points do you detect “I” disease in yourself?

How have these been expressed in your life recently?

Ask God to help you begin to turn from selfishness and turn toward Him in two or three specific areas this week. Thank Him for His grace and power to do this!

Tuesday

Read James 4:1-6 and Hebrews 13:5. What is one of the causes of fights and quarrels, according to these verses?

How have you seen this “desire to acquire” in your own life?

Has it ever caused a fight or quarrel?

How can the truth of God’s grace promised in James 4:6 and Hebrews 13:5 help you?

When James says “friendship with the world is hatred toward God” obviously he does not mean friendship with people, because he told us earlier to treat everyone with kindness. He means being friendly with the corrupt values of the world. This is hatred toward God, because God knows those worldly values bring pain to His children. In what areas of your life are you struggling with being too friendly with the world?

Thank the Lord today for His grace. Ask Him to help you be content with what you have.

Wednesday

Read James 4:7–10. James is urging people who value the superficial things of this world to repent and turn to God. Read Psalm 147:5 and Ecclesiastes 6:10. How have you seen God demonstrate His power and sovereignty in your life?

What comfort do you receive from knowing God is in ultimate control?

What situation are you facing where you need to see God’s power at work?

Thank God that He is all-powerful and able to help us in any situation. Commit any problem you may be experiencing to Him.



Memory Verse

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” *James 4:10 (NIV)*