

## JAMES 4

1. Why will God judge teachers more strictly than others?

-Because teachers must make sure that they teach the Word of God correctly.

2. Is any Christian perfect?

-No. In James 3:2, the Lord through James is teaching us that no one is perfect. Only God is perfect.

3. What is an easy way to sin?

-To use our tongue for sin instead of for God.

4. Who alone is able to tame the tongue?

-Only God.

5. Does the evil on the tongue of the Christian come from the new heart?

-No.

6. Where does the evil on the tongue of a Christian come from?

-From the flesh or the old habits from our life before we were saved by Christ.

7. If we have evil thoughts on the inside, what should we do?

-Ask the Lord Jesus to take away the evil thoughts before they arrive at the tongue.

8. How do Christians obtain the wisdom from heaven?

-We must ask God.

Let's read James 4:1-3

1-What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

2-You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

3-When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

-Why do Christians fight and quarrel?

-Because of our desires that battle within us.

-Our desires that battle within us not only hurt others, but they also hurt us.

-Where do these desires that battle within us come from?

-From our flesh which is our old life that we had before Christ saved us from ourselves.

-All Christians should know that our flesh will never be satisfied, even though we continue to give it what it desires.

-Proverbs 27:20 says: “Just as Death and Destruction are never satisfied, so human desire is never satisfied.”

-Why can the flesh never be satisfied?

-Because the things of this world will only satisfy for a short time, and then, the flesh will want something else.

-The flesh is like a crying baby who is never happy about anything.

-How do we live without having the desires of the flesh?

-If we allow God in us to be completely God in our lives, there will be no room for the flesh.

-As Galatians 5:16 says: “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

-Who alone can completely satisfy us?

-Only God.

Let's read James 4:4-6

4-You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

5-Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

-Are Christians adulterous people?

-Even if we are not physically adulterous, we can be spiritually adulterous.

-How can we be spiritually adulterous?

-By honoring the world or the flesh more than God.

-By honoring ourselves or others more than God.

-If we are friends with the world, how does this make us an enemy of God?

-Because the world does not believe in God.

-The Bible tells us not to love the world because the lust and pride of the world are not from God (1 John 2):

15-“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16-For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

-God is jealous for us because He wants us to love Him more than anything else.

-God wants to be our best friend.

Let's read James 4:6

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

-Even though we do not always love God like we should, God gives us more grace.

-Even though we sin as Christians, God gives us more grace.

-As Christians, we have the grace of God which is greater than all of our sin.

-The grace of God is Christ dying on the cross for us.  
-The grace of God is God taking away our sin.

-Because of God's grace, we humble ourselves before God.

-If we ask, God helps us to humble ourselves before Him as He continues to show us favor.

Let's read James 4:7-10

7-Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8-Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts,

you double-minded.

9-Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

10-Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

-In these four verses, there are many commands.

-All of these commands encourage us to be the people that God wants us to be.

-To submit to God allows God to be our God and not our own sinful ways.

-To resist the devil is to fill ourselves with the Word of God so that the devil will run away.

-To come near to God is to understand that God is closer to us than we realize.

-To wash our hands and purify our hearts is to understand that our flesh on the outside needs to follow our new heart on the inside which God has given us.

-To grieve, mourn, and wail, changing our laughter to mourning and our joy to gloom is to be sad about our sin even though our God has saved us.

-To humble ourselves before God is the best that we can do.

-When we humble ourselves before God, what does God do for us?

-He lifts us up.

Let's read James 4:11-12

11-Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

12-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?

-These verses teach us not to slander one another.

-Slander can destroy others.

-Satan slandered God in the Garden of Eden which led to the first sin of Adam and Eve.

-These verses teach us not to judge other Christians.

-Why should we not judge other Christians?

-Because judging the life of other Christians is God's work and not our work.

-When we judge other people, we are taking God's work away from Him.

Let's read James 4:13-17

13-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."

14-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.

15-Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

16-As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

17-If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

-Do these verses teach us not to make plans?

-No.

-Christians should make plans, but after having made the plans, we should allow our God to change them if He wants to.

-This is because the will of God is perfect.

-We are foolish if we do not do God's will.

-We are arrogant if we do not do God's will.

-It is sin if we do not do God's will.