How do you evaluate Faithfulness? What kind of example comes to mind. For me, a man who is still married to his high school sweetheart after 50 years and has never looked at another woman has passed the test of faithfulness. A prisoner of war who suffers years of torture and deprivation but never renounces his nation would be another example of Faithfulness.

It is fascinating to me that James uses the picture of an unfaithful wife to describe Christians who are more interested in the things of this world than in God. Let's look at and ponder these verses together.

James 4:4-6 (Phillips) [4] You are like unfaithful wives, flirting with the glamour of this world, and never realizing that to be the world's lover means becoming the enemy of God! **Anyone who deliberately chooses to love the world is thereby making himself God's enemy.** [5] Do you think what the scriptures have to say about this is a mere formality? Or do you imagine that this spirit of passionate jealousy is the Spirit he has caused to live in us? [6] No, he gives us grace potent enough to meet this and every other evil spirit, if we are humble enough to receive it. That is why he says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'

To whom or what are we committed? Are we sold out to pursuing the American Dream? Do we pursue health issues at the cost of everything else in our lives? Is there a focus that is totally consumed with making enough so that we can pursue our leisure pleasures whatever they may be? The words in these verses are very strong. When we choose anyone or anything other than God we are being UNFAITHFUL. And that makes us an Enemy of God. Verse 5 is more of a challenge but the thought seems to be that one of our main problems is ENVY; we want what the world has. Our tendency is to pursue the world and its pleasures rather than God. The answer is found in verse 6 where James tells us that God's grace is available if we will seek after Him. **Life Application Study Bible Notes: "**The cure for evil desires is humility. Pride makes us self-centered and leads us to conclude that we deserve all we can see, touch, or imagine. It creates greedy appetites for far more than we need. We can be released from our self-centered desires by humbling ourselves before God, realizing that all we really need is his approval. When the Holy Spirit fills us, we see that this world's seductive attractions are only cheap substitutes for what God has to offer.**"**

PRAYER: Lord, God please help me to seek YOU and only YOU. May the things of this world not hold attraction to me. May I be faithful in everyway with Your Strength and Power.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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