

James 1:19-20 (NIV)

My dear brothers, take note of this:
Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to
speak and slow to become angry, [20] for
man's anger does not bring about the
righteous life that God desires.

James 2:8-9 (NLT)

Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: Love your neighbor as yourself. [9] But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law.

James 4:1-2 (ESV)

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? [2] You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel...

James 4:2-3 (ESV)

[2] ...You do not have, because you do not ask. [3] You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Causes of CONFLICT

James 4:1-3

Acts 15:39 (NIV) They had such a **SHARP DISAGREEMENT** that they **parted company...**

1 Cor. 1:11 (NIV) My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are **QUARRELS** among you.

Philip. 4.2 (NIV) I plead with Euodia and Syntyche **to AGREE with each other** IN the Lord...

To suggest that this paragraph **does not apply to believers is unrealistic**, and it robs the passage of all its value for us.

Titus 3:1-2 (NLT)

Remind the **BELIEVERS** to submit to the government and its officers. They should be OBEDIENT, always ready **to DO what is GOOD**.
[2] They must not **SLANDER** anyone and must **avoid QUARRELING**. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone. [3]
Once we, too... were misled and **became slaves to many lusts and pleasures...**

James 3:14 (NIV)

...if you harbor **bitter envy** and **selfish ambition** in your hearts...

[2] You **DESIRE** and do not have,
SO you **MURDER**.

You **COVET** and cannot obtain,
SO you **fight and quarrel**. (ESV)

James 4:1-2 (ESV)

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your **PASSIONS** are at **WAR** within you?

[2] You **DESIRE** and do not have,

SO you **MURDER**.

You **COVET** and cannot obtain,

SO you **fight** and **quarrel...**

→ There is **DANGER** in Pursuing
UNGODLY DESIRES

1 Peter 2:11 (NLT)

Dear friends, I warn you as temporary residents and foreigners to keep away from **WORLDLY DESIRES** that **WAGE WAR** against your very **SOULS**.

The reason for James's discussion of the **TONGUE** and **WISDOM** was the reality of the struggles in the church.

Each person wanted **their own WAY** and **their own ADVANTAGE.**

Galatians 5:17 (NIV)

For the sinful nature **DESIRES** what is **CONTRARY** to the **Spirit**, and the **Spirit** what is contrary to the sinful nature.
They are in CONFLICT with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

You do NOT Have Because you...

- do **NOT ASK** God
- ask God with **WRONG** Motives
- focus only on **YOURSELF** when you ask

→ **Prayer** is **NOT**

seeking God's **APPROVAL** for what
we have already **PLANNED** to do

We Must Ask so that...

- God is **HONORED**
- God's Kingdom may be **BUILT**
- it will **HELP** and **ENCOURAGE** others

1 John 5:14-15 (NIV)

This is the **confidence** we have
in **APPROACHING God**: that if we ask
anything **according to HIS WILL**,
HE hears us. [15] And if we know that
HE hears us - whatever we ask - we know
that we have what we asked of Him.

IN PRAYER GOD...

- is not **IMPRESSED** by our **DEMANDS**
- sees past our **WORDS** to our **HEARTS**
- is not impressed by our **PROMISES**
- does things in His **TIME** and **WAY**
- always **ANSWERS**

→ We are **never SATISFIED** -
we always **want MORE.**

MacDonald

I WANT...

➤ to be **RIGHT**

➤ what I **WANT**

➤ to Feel **GOOD**

It is so Easy to believe the LIE that...

- **PLEASANT** and **FUN** things are **GOOD**
- **PAINFUL** and **HARD** things are **BAD**

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

...to keep me from becoming proud,
I was given a **THORN** in my flesh,
a messenger from Satan to torment me
and keep me from becoming **PROUD**.

[8] Three different times **I BEGGED** the Lord to take it away.

[9] Each time **HE** said, My **GRACE** is **ALL** you **NEED**. **MY power works BEST in WEAKNESS.** So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

[10] That's why I take pleasure in my
Weaknesses, and in the Insults, Hardships,
Persecutions, and Troubles
that I **suffer** for **Christ**.

For when I am **WEAK**, then I am
STRONG.

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