

## For the Love of God and Country Excerpt – Part Eight

*From whence come wars and fightings among you?  
come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?  
2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain:  
ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.  
3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss,  
that ye may consume it upon your lusts.  
James 4:1-3*

Let's look at our scriptures in James from a different angle than previously viewed. In this particular scriptural passage, God draws attention to a very prevalent scene of today's life. We are in the midst of wars and fightings, both literal and figurative. Nations are fighting against nations, governments are divided within themselves, people come to blows with each other over the slightest things, and even families brawl against one another. This is the world we live in. The motivations for these "fightings" are many and varied: pride, greed, hate, anger, fear, etc. However, pride seems to be a big motive that God pinpoints in particular.

If we want God to come on the scene and make changes in our nation and government, then we must set aside our pride and come to Him with a request that is based on *Him* and *His word*. We cannot exalt our own way of thinking and ask God to back our plan. No, the plan must be God's and the outcome that we are seeking must be God's. It is *His* kingdom that we are supposed to want to come and *His* will that we want to be done in earth as it is in heaven.

Just stop and think for a moment. Do you *really* know everything that is going on in this earth? Do you *really* know what the future holds in detail? Do you *really* think that you have all the knowledge, understanding, wisdom and skill to meet the challenges that face our nation -- to make the "right" decision about even one of the difficulties facing our leadership? If you are honest, you will have to admit "NO." Neither does any earthly being. Only God has what it takes to make the right decision about everything. That's why we need His favor and His help. Pride will sneak into our prayers, into our lives, and we will find ourselves petitioning for things that promote us and not the kingdom of God. That's not good, because that aligns us with the devil, God's adversary.

Every idea, solution or desire that we have in the natural is based upon this age and Satan's carnival - his ways of being and doing. God's plan is based on Himself, love, and unlimited possibilities. Whose domain or point of view do you want to "share"? I want to share in God's good – His possibilities, His privileges, His power, His authority – and I think you want the same. We are the ones who choose by the decision we make concerning who we will serve. If we choose to serve God, we will seek Him and His ways of being and doing right first.<sup>1</sup> It is the simple truth.

Before we move on to the next point, I want to look at something else that Pastor James says. "*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*"<sup>2</sup> Many people want to simply dismiss this portion of scripture by saying that they are not having a physical affair; they are not committing "sexual" adultery. However, God is not talking about sexual adultery in this particular scripture. He is talking about *spiritual* adultery.

I quote my husband often because he has some great ways of making distinctions that takes confusion out of the picture. He says, "Fornication is trying to get one's needs met without a covenant.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 6:33

<sup>2</sup> James 4:4

Adultery is trying to get one's needs met outside of the covenant that one has." We have a covenant with God. He is our source of all life. As Christians, we commit adultery when we look to the world and embrace doing things the world's way. God's way of being and doing right is love. The world's way of being and doing right is to "look out for number one – that would be *ME!*" God resists this type of motive. It speaks of pride, which comes from Satan. We are to resist the devil, submit to God, and know that God will give us all the grace we need to be victorious.

Pastor James asks a very important question here. He asks, "*Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?*"<sup>3</sup> In other words, do you think that God is talking just to be talking or is He telling us something important? Is there no purpose behind His warnings or His instructions? Or, is He forewarning us that our human spirit intensely craves possession of what it wants - that our natural, undisciplined impulse always leads to ill-will in its endeavor to attain what it wants? The human spirit will slander, defame, diminish, steal and even murder to get what it wants. Lust and envy are vile emotions that only lead to enmity with God. That is not a good place to be. We do not want to be the enemy of God: He always wins!

We simply must get our motives straight. We must operate and pray from a motive of love, looking to obtain the will of God for our nation. If we will do that, God will hear and God will answer. He will provide all the grace that we need to do our part to bring His kingdom and His will to manifestation in the earth. He gives this grace to those that are humble, those who submit themselves to God, those who draw nigh to Him, and those that resist the devil.<sup>4</sup>

You and I are the light of the world if Jesus lives within us. We have been appointed to do good works – the works that the Father wants us to do, when He wants us to do them. He has given us His authority, His power, His wisdom, His love, His grace, His *everything* in order that we might "abound" to every good work. Having the right motive connects us to all that provision and assures us of victory in all our endeavors for the kingdom. There is coming a day when we will not be able to "*work the works of Him that sent*" us, but that is not today. Our commitment must be to carry out the plan of God for our lives and do our part to fulfill the purpose of God on earth.

Today, let's decide to let our light shine. Let the love of God work in and through us, bringing the light of Love to a dark and hurting world. May Jesus shine!

Additional Scriptures: Matthew 6:5-15, 2 Corinthians 9:8, Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 5:14-16, John 9:4-5

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<sup>3</sup> James 4:5

<sup>4</sup> James 4:6