

**Getting What You  
Want From God  
by Getting What  
God Wants For You**



James 4:1-10

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 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. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

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. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

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*"Most of my struggles in the Christian life circle around the same two themes: why God doesn't act the way we want God to, and why I don't act the way God wants me to. Prayer is the precise point where those themes converge."*

**READ & REFLECT & RESPOND:** What Does God Want Us See?

**Key Question:** What "*secrets of the kingdom of God*" does Jesus want us to have and to understand as it relates to prayer?

What did James learn about prayer in his experience with Jesus?

*"Prayer is our most formidable weapon, but the one in which we are the least skilled, the most averse to its use."* E. M. Bounds



*"Why value humility in our approach to God? Because it accurately reflects the truth. There is a God and I am not it. Humility does not mean I grovel before God...It means, rather, that in the presence of God I gain a glimpse of my true state in the universe, which exposes my smallness at the same time it reveals God's greatness."*

Philip Yancey, Prayer

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**WEEKLY STUDY CHALLENGE**

A. Read WEEK 8 (pgs. 409-453) of "**The Books of the Bible.**"

This is the last week of our reading! Enjoy!