



W.A.R. (Warring Against Repentance)

(James 4:1-10)

***Special Note:** I taught this teaching two previous times under the name, “Show Me Your Friends and I’ll Show You Your Future” and on both occasions the recording was spoiled. I concluded I must have been missing something, so this is an “new and improved version” under a new title that is much more appropriate!*

Friend of the World?

“Where do **wars and fights** come from among you? Do they not come from your **desires for pleasure** that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because **you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss**, that you may spend it on **your pleasures**. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.** Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: **“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”**” James 4:1-6 NKJV

James 4:1-6

☑ “Where do **wars and fights** come from among you? Do they not come from your **desires for pleasure that war in your members?**” James 4:1 NKJV

☑ The WAR in your members!

☑ W. A. R. (Warring Against Repentance)

☑ Repentance, [T’shuv’ah] in Hebrew, literally means to “turn toward Yahweh.” It does not mean, as often emphasized in Christianity, “to turn from sin.” Of course, when you turn toward God, you are turning away from sin. However, the emphasis in authentic repentance, or in other words the focus, is to fix your eyes on God, not on your sin.

☑ “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside every weight, and the sin** which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus [fixing your eyes on Y’shua]**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

- ☑ **The Bad news...**the battle wages on. **The good news...** there is a battle to wage! You see, if you are a believer you have entered the battle to subdue your human soul and carnal desires by submitting to God and to access His grace.
- ☑ **As a man, a human with a human spirit ONLY, there is no fight. You have one spirit, that which is common to man (AKA: the spirit of the world):**
- ☑ *“For what man knows the things of a man except the **spirit of the man** which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”* 1 Corinthians 2:11 NKJV
- ☑ **Once you gain accesses to the Spirit of God, two things happen, you both recognize there is a fight and you are empowered to win that fight:**
- ☑ *“Now **we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God**, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”* 1 Corinthians 2:12 NKJV
- ☑ Recognizing there is a fight is paramount. As a man animated by what is common to all men, you naturally gravitate, with no internal conflict, to that which satisfies your own desires!

- ☑ But, once you realize there is another option, NOT SEEKING YOUR OWN SELFISH DESIRES, then the battle begins.
- ☑ Happily the power of God becomes simultaneously available to help you fight and WIN that battle.
- ☑ **It cannot be elaborated any better than this...**
 - ☑ *“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.” **But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire.** For apart from the law sin was dead. **I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.** And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. **For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.** Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. **For we know that the***

law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. **But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;** for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. **Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.** I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. **For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.** O wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver** me from this body of death? I thank God—through **Jesus Christ** our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7:7-25 NKJV

- ☑ Summary:
- ☑ Sin produces every manner of evil desire.

- ☑ Sin deceives you and kills you.
- ☑ The law is spiritual: obedience requires the Spirit!
- ☑ You are carnal (spirit of man only)—sold out for sin.
- ☑ You should know that in you (that is, in your flesh, carnal nature) nothing good dwells.
- ☑ As a believer, you now have access to the Holy Spirit, yet you can still access the old spirit of man (this is THE BATTLE!).
- ☑ When you do express the old spirit/man, it is not considered you any longer (because you are a new creature)! *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
- ☑ In other words, it is no longer you who engage in sin—that is the OLD YOU and you SHOULD NO CONSIDER THAT THE SAME AS THE NEW YOU. *“knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”* Romans 6:6 NKJV
- ☑ Now if you do what you will not to do, it is no longer you who do it, but sin that dwells in you!
- ☑ You can now delight in the law of God according to the inward man (new Spirit).

- ☑ But the other law in your members (the carnal nature) still exists. It wars against the law of your mind (the heart where the Spirit of God dwells).
- ☑ It still has the potential to bring you into captivity to the law of sin (carnal nature) which is in your members.
- ☑ Who will deliver you from this body of death? Thank God—Jesus Christ DID!
- ☑ The Exclamation Point! The WAR in your members!
- ☑ “I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** For **the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another,** so that you do not do the things that you wish.” Galatians 5:16-17 NKJV
- ☑ What animates the NEW MAN and what animates the OLD MAN are at WAR; they are in constant conflict with one another!
- ☑ **The perfect explanation...**
- ☑ *“For what the law could not do in that it was **weak through the flesh,** God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the***

Spirit. For those who ***live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh***, but ***those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit***. For to be ***carnally minded is death***, but to be ***spiritually minded is life*** and peace. Because the ***carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.***” Romans 8:3-7 NKJV

- ☑ Summary:
- ☑ With the spirit of man only, you are weak through the flesh.
- ☑ But God made something else available.
- ☑ You can obey Him when you decide to no longer walk according to the flesh but live according to the Spirit.
- ☑ If you live according to the flesh, your human only mind is focused on the things of the flesh.
- ☑ Those who live according to the Holy Spirit can refuse the things of the flesh.
- ☑ Remember: Spirit of man only (carnal mind) equals death; and the Spirit of God equals life.
- ☑ Carnal mind is no friend of God. It can't ever submit to God without access to the Holy Spirit.
- ☑ Two Key teachings to study on access to God's grace (His supernatural power)...

- ☑ [Indomitable Grace](#)
- ☑ [Energy & Dissipation: Wholistic Grace](#)
- ☑ **The Desire of Pleasure**
 - ☑ When you were a man ONLY and had access to the spirit and mind of a man ONLY, you had nothing to aim for other than to satisfy you OWN pleasures. Really there were no real conflicts. Satisfying your own desires was all there was.
- ☑ **The War in Your Body and Soul**
 - ☑ The battle begins when you gain access to the Holy Spirit and when you realize the availability of God's grace. Now you no longer need to submit to your carnal desires. You can use God's power to bring all your fleshly desires, those cravings of your physical body and on your mind (your emotions and every carnal craving of your soul) into complete submission to God. This is the WAR, the fight now warring in your members, Warring Against Repentance!
 - ☑ The WAR against repentance = I have a craving to go back to my sin!
 - ☑ ALL THIS WAS JUST FOR James 4:1

☑ ***"You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."** James 4:2-3 NKJV*

☑ **Lust, Murder, Covetous**

☑ **Lust:** I want what I want to satisfy my every craving (physical, sexual, emotional, etc.)

☑ **Murder:** every evil thought that slaughters another in your own mind, and worse yet, those horrific words that escape your mouth.

☑ **Covetous:** I am not happy with what I have; I want what's yours; and more so, I don't want you to have it!

☑ **Proper Asking**

☑ **The Battle:** You either do not ask or you ask and don't receive...Why?

☑ Y'shua gave us a few key insights...

☑ **Ask, Seek, Knock, you will have...** *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."* Matthew 7:7-8 NKJV

☑ **Ask in His Name...** *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do*

*also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And **whatever you ask in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**"*

John 14:12-14 NKJV

☑ **And the Key that unlocks it all—Ask in His will...**

*"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, **whatever we ask, we know that we have** the petitions that we have asked of Him." I John 5:14-15 NKJV*

☑ Summary

- ☑ Ask, seek and knock boldly!
- ☑ Do so in His name and under His authority!
- ☑ Ask ONLY according to His will (which demands you know what that is!)

☑ **Improper Asking**

- ☑ **Asking amiss:** when it's all about satisfying you! If you are seeking the Lord and it is about satisfying your own carnal desires, then you are asking amiss.
- ☑ That may not be the same for every person. Sure, some things are ALWAYS wrong to ask for—if they are unquestionably sinful. But, at other times, it is just that

what you are asking for is an attempt to meet a desire that MUST be filled by God.

☑ **Example:** There is nothing wrong about praying to live in a nice house or to drive a nice car.

☑ But, *“if you cannot be fulfilled WITHOUT those things, then you will never be truly satisfying WITH those things!”*

☑ *“**Adulterers and adulteresses!** Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God?** Whoever therefore **wants to be** a friend of the world **makes himself** an enemy of God.” James 4:4 NKJV*

☑ **Adulterers and Adulteresses! Literally or Figuratively?**

☑ This is not necessarily referring to literal adultery. It is to focus our attention on what we are married to in our hearts. To whom or with what do we desire to be in covenant?

☑ *“A covenant relationship that we have with the world and the things of the world will interfere with the covenant relationship God demands of us with Himself.”*

☑ **Friendship with the World = Enemy of God**

☑ It is worth repeating... *“A covenant relationship that we have with the world and the things of the world will*

interfere with the covenant relationship God demands of us with Himself.” If you focus your attention and give all your energy to the things of this world in order to feel satisfied, you will never be a friend of God.

- ☑ The duality could not be any clearer than what John teaches us...can you recognize the TWO WORLDS?
- ☑ **ONE WORLD...For God so loved the world:** *“For **God so loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn **the world**, but that **the world** through Him might be saved.”* John 3:16-17 NKJV
- ☑ **THE OTHER WORLD...Do not love the world:** *“**Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the **lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does **the will of God** abides forever.”* I John 2:15-17 NKJV
- ☑ God so love THE WORLD and Do not love THE WORLD or the THINGS in THE WORLD.

- ☑ The WORLD He loves refers to the People who would be saved because of His Son!
- ☑ The WORLD He DOES NOT love refers to the THINGS in the world, the SINS in the world!
- ☑ *“Friendship with that world is enmity with God.”*
- ☑ **Desire: wanting to be makes it so!**
- ☑ Fill in the blank: If you want to be (a friend of the world) you will make yourself (an enemy of God)!
- ☑ If you want to be (_____) you will make yourself (_____)!
- ☑ You can stick anything into that formula and it works. Anything you want that is not of God will separate you from God. And, anything you want bad enough, you will direct all your energy toward obtaining, and you will obtain it. You will become and have what you want most—God...or anything else!
- ☑ As a man thinks...
 - ☑ *“For as he **thinks in his heart**, so is he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, But his heart is not with you.”* Proverbs 23:7 NKJV
 - ☑ You become and achieve what you put your predominate energy and attention toward. It’s not to what you give lip service, but to what you give your

heart and soul (your mind, will, emotions, intentions, inspirations, motivations.)

- ☑ Where your energy is directed is what result you will achieve, whether to satisfy your flesh or to satisfy God. (Again see: [Energy & Dissipation](#))
- ☑ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The things you value most is is where you energy is invested!
- ☑ *““Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**”*
Matthew 6:19-21 NKJV
- ☑ *“Or do you think that the Scripture says in **vain**, “**The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously**”? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God **resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.**”” James 4:5-6 NKJV*
- ☑ “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously.”
- ☑ James says, “the Scripture says,” however, what follows is not actually a specific scripture verse reference, but

rather a scriptural concept. It makes much better sense if we simply remove the quotation marks from, *“The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”*. Let me translate it so it makes better sense, again, because there is no place in the Old Testament that you can find that specific verse.

- ☑ *“Do you think that it is useless that God’s word teaches us that God is a jealous God?”* DJV (Dr. Jeff Version)
- ☑ The biblical precedent is clear, so James is simply introducing this idea: *“for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”* Exodus 34:14 NKJV
- ☑ Considering God’s jealousy...is it a waste of time or something to reckon with? It is NOT a waste of time (Vain: futile, useless, pointless) to consider your actions and desires in light of the fact that **God wants all of you!**
- ☑ See this teaching on giving your all to God: [Available!](#)
- ☑ Question:
 - ☑ Jealous of what?
 - ☑ Answer:
 - ☑ Chasing after things of the world to satisfy you own desires!
- ☑ How does Yahweh treat such offense?

- ☑ *“God **resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.**”*
James 4:6
- ☑ *“Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble.”* Proverbs 3:34 NKJV
- ☑ He is ready to meet all of your needs if you would rather choose Him over the things of the world.
- ☑ **The Opposite of Pride: More Grace**
- ☑ Resists the proud; gives grace to the humble:
 - ☑ **Pride:** you do it on your own to go get the things you desire.
 - ☑ **Humble:** you flow in the will of God; let Him be in the driver’s seat and you happily do His will.

Humble Yourself

“Therefore **submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee** from you. **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.** **Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”** James 4:7-10 NKJV

James 4:7-10

☑ *“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **Draw near to God** and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” James 4:7-8 NKJV*

☑ Instead of being proud...submit to God!

☑ Benefits

☑ Resist the devil and he flees.

☑ Draw near to God and you will realize how close He is!

☑ The quintessential example...(See: [Impersonating a Christian](#))

☑ *“Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and **showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory**. And he said to Him, “All these things **I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.**” Then Jesus said to him, “**Away with you, Satan!** For it is written, ‘**You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.**’ ” Then **the devil left Him**, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.”*

Matthew 4:8-11 NKJV

☑ Summary:

☑ Here is everything the world has to offer [pagan pleasures / benefits / advantages]. **You want them?**

- ☑ All you have to do is compromise a tiny bit!
- ☑ Give in a little! Idolize something other than Yahweh!
- ☑ It will be worth it. NO IT WILL NOT!
- ☑ **Instead of being proud...CHASING THE WORLD**
- ☑ Cleanse you hands (sinners)
- ☑ Purify your hearts (double-minded)
- ☑ Double-minded is the equivalent of double-hearted. Love for the world is enmity with God!
- ☑ “I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** For **the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another,** so that you do not do the things that you wish.” Galatians 5:16-17 NKJV
- ☑ What animates the NEW MAN and what animates the OLD MAN are at WAR; they are in constant conflict with one another! The WAR against repentance = I have a craving to go back to my sin!
- ☑ **You cannot serve two masters:** “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**” Matthew 6:24 NKJV

☑ *“Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.” James 4:9 NKJV*

☑ **Are we commanded to be depressed? Of course NOT!**

☑ Why lament, mourn, weep?

☑ Why replace laughter with mourning?

☑ Why replace joy with gloom?

☑ **Context**

☑ When your focus and fulfillment is all about your personal pleasure, your personal desires, your wants and needs, your cravings to befriend the things of the world... the things that **should NOT** make you laugh; the things that **should NOT** bring you joy, you should lament, mourn, and weep instead!

☑ In other words, you should feel bad about needing the things of the world to feel good!

☑ This is the W.A.R. you are in.

☑ Instead...

☑ *“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” James 4:10 NKJV*

☑ **Remember: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)**

☑ Humble yourself:

- ☑ **Pride:** you do it on your own to go get the things you desire.
- ☑ **Humble:** you flow in the will of God; let Him be in the driver's seat and you happily do His will.
- ☑ **Outcome:** He lifts you up! In others words, all you ever really need is provided for by Him, and you will find all your satisfaction in those things!
- ☑ *“Therefore **do not worry**, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after **all these things the Gentiles seek**. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek **first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and **all these things shall be added to you**.” Matthew 6:31-33 NKJV*

NEXT TEACHING

He Must Increase; I Must Decrease (James 4:11-17)