



God Has an App for That!

Leaders Notes Week 6

“Restore a Broken Heart”

James 4:1-12

1. According to James, fights and quarrels arise from the desires within you. Remember that earlier, James credited these “desires” as the reason why we are tempted and sin (1:14-15). The Greek word for “desire” is *hedone* (pronounced hay-dough-NAY), from which we get our English word “hedonistic.” It is the will of your flesh, that part of us that strives against God and against His will for us.

The two reasons why we do not get what we want is because: (1) we do not ask God, and (2) when we do ask God, we ask with impure motives. See also Matt. 7:7-8; John 16:24; Psalm 66:18-19; Isa. 1:15-16.

2. Impure or immoral motives make for a wrong prayer. For instance, two people can pray to God for more money. However, one may receive from the Lord while the other will not. Why? Because one will ask out of greed while the other will ask out of necessity.

“Impure motives” in v. 3 is the same word for “desires” in v. 1 . If we are controlled by those desires that want the opposite that God wants for us, then our prayers will be contaminated.

3. A person becomes an enemy of God by becoming a friend of the world. 1 John 2:15-17 says, “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

“The world” refers to everyone who is either opposed to or ignorant of God. The world can be TMZ. The world can be NFL or NBA or MLB. The

world can be WWW. The world can be anything that stands between you and God. We are not to love the things of this earth – money, possessions, lust, etc. – for when we love these things we are dividing our attention between them and God. God demands 100% of our attention and our allegiance. And we should devote 100% to Him because only He is capable of saving us from our sins.

4. “Enviess intensely” could also be translated as “intense jealousy” or “a jealousy of longing” or “enviess longingly.” The idea here is that the Spirit of God longs for your wholehearted devotion. If a piece of your heart is held back from God, then He will get jealous because that means that part of you loves someone more than Him.

In a marriage, how ridiculous would it be if a husband told his wife that he loved her the most 95% of the time and 5% of the time he loved another woman more than her? Should the wife be pleased with 95 percent? Of course not! She would be jealous, and rightly so. In the same way, the Lord is jealous of our affection and attention. He not only desires to be most important person in our lives, but He also *deserves* that position.

5. The remedy to an unfulfilled life is achieved in three simple (not that simple, actually) steps:

- Submit, or humble, yourself to God.
- Resist the devil.
- Come near to God.

Read Matt. 11:29 for the benefits of submitting to the Lord. Read Luke 4:1-13 to see how Jesus successfully resisted the devil's temptations. Read Hebrews 10:22 to see how we should “draw near to God.”

6. Each of the three verses teaches that God is near to us. Though He may feel far off from us, in reality He is near and as James 4:8 shows us, He desires to be near to us. If we call out to Him, He is near (Ps. 145:18). If we wait on Him, He will reveal Himself to us (2 Pet. 3:9). If we seek Him, we will certainly find Him (Jer. 29:13). And if we humble ourselves before the Lord, He will lift us up (Ja. 4:10).

Good point to ponder: One of the names for Jesus is Immanuel, which literally means “God with us.” Whenever God does not seem near, just remember that He used to live on planet earth in a human body. That's the epitome of nearness.



7. Allow them to answer first. If they are hesitant to answer, encourage them to think about it in steps. What is one step that they can take right now to be closer to the Lord? How can they take another next step in that direction tomorrow? How can they keep moving closer next week? Next month? Next year?

8. It's one thing to talk about becoming closer to the Lord and another to do it. Be sure to move beyond the obvious answers of prayer and reading Scripture. Highlight these two as *essential* for drawing closer to the Lord and challenge the group to think deeper and broader. Can we draw closer to the Lord through service? What kind of service? Service to who? Can we draw closer to the Lord through worship? What kind of worship? When do we approach the Lord with this worship?

9. We should keep in mind that God is the Judge and we are not. A few reasons why God is Judge: (1) He knows everything, (2) He knows the thoughts of people, (3) He is righteous, (4) He sees the future and (5) He created everything. We are none of those things. We are the opposite. Therefore, we should submit our judgments of others to the only one who is qualified in this universe to judge.

Some other verses for consideration: Matt. 7:1-2; Rom. 2:1-4; Rom. 14:9-13; 1 Cor. 4:1-5.

10. Take this time also to write down in your study guide the prayer requests of those who share. Be sure to share the praise reports on a weekly basis as the series progresses.

FURTHER STUDY |

There is a reoccurring theme throughout scripture for each one of these topical studies. Take this week as the Leader of your group to immerse yourself in the reading of the Word and see how these verses can help you download God's app to Restore a Broken Heart.

- Psalm 9:8-10
- Psalm 10:13-15
- Psalm 32:6-8
- Psalm 34:17-19
- Psalm 91
- Psalm 147:2-4
- Isaiah 61

