

CONTENTMENT MEANS SURRENDERING!

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website, www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE YOU START this small group lesson. It will allow you take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on your journey to greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

Overview

- What did we learn about the tongue in *James 3:6-9*?
- What did we learn about bitter jealousy and selfish ambitions in *James 3:13-15*?
- What are key words for us in *Phil 4:10-13*?
- What are the REASONS WE FIGHT WITH ONE ANOTHER? *James 4:1*
- What do we learn are the reasons people fight with one another? (*v 1b*)
- Pastor explained that the Greek word for “passions” means enjoyments. He then gave several examples of desirous enjoyments. How can they be reasons to fight with one another?
- What do you think James means then when he says “they (desires) battle within you?” What is the battle really between?
- Why does God NOT ANSWER OUR PRAYERS? *James 4:2-4*
- What does James tell us happens if we fight out of frustration?
- What do we learn about prayers not answered in *verse 3*?
- What is the advice we learn about prayer in *John 16:24 and 1 John 3:21-22*?
- What type of prayers is John encouraging from us?
- After reading *vv.2-4*, what have you learned about the reason God has not granted some of your prayer requests?
- What does it mean to be SPIRITUAL ADULTERERS? *James 4:4*
- What does James mean by calling the people “Spiritual Adulterers?”
- Can an unsaved person, a non-Christian, be an adulterer? Then what is the difference between an unsaved person and a person who pledged allegiance to Jesus?
- Have there been any areas in your life that you have been tempted by, “friendship with the world?”
- What does it mean to SURRENDER TO GOD’S CONTROL?

James 4:5-6

Pastor explained that these verses can best be explained in the context of a husband and wife. "God's journey for His people's faithfulness is like a husband's longing for his wife's fidelity." What can we learn about jealousy when we look at this in biblical terms of Jesus being the bridegroom and we, the church, are the bride?

- Who does God give control of our life?
- What do we learn from *v. 6 (Prov 3-4)*?
- From what James says, how do you describe surrender?
- What does it mean "BUT HE GIVES ME MORE GRACE"?

James 4-6

- What does God resist?
- To whom does he give more grace?
- How can I handle WHATEVER CIRCUMSTANCE I FACE?

James 4:7-10

- How would you describe grace drenched humility?
- What counsel does James give to those tempted by the world?
- How do we put the principle of humility into practice through the power of the Holy Spirit?
- After reading these verses, what happens when we submit to God and His will?
- **Verse 8** gives us a list of inner thoughts and outward effects of REPENTANCE.
What comes with

APPLICATION

At the beginning of the message, Pastor said we would hear the answers to a number of questions.

Now, what are your answers:

- What are the reasons we fight with one another?
- Why does God not answer our prayers?
- What does it mean to be spiritual adulterers?
- What does it mean to surrender to God's control?
- What does it mean, "But He Gives More Grace?"
- How can I handle whatever circumstances I face?
- How can you get the devil to flee from you?
- What is the source of power over the devil?
- In your day to day life, how would you define what it means to be humble?
- What does humility produce? Can you share examples?
- On Sunday night Pastor reminded us to live by the following six words--
"worry about nothing, pray about everything."
- How do these words relate to your Journey to Greatness and the lesson we learn in *James 4:1-10*?