

Finding what we really long for

James 4:1-5

I. Conflict and envy reveals that something is wrong with our desires (James 4:1-3).

- A. The problem is me – my desires (4:1).
 - I battle with others because I battle within.
- B. Envy and longings are at the bottom of our conflicts (4:2a).
 - When I don't get what I want I get angry.
- C. There is a spiritual reason I don't have what I want (4:2b,3).
 - Sometimes we don't pray/ask God (4:2b).
 - Sometimes we pray with selfish motives for the wrong things (4:3; 1 John 3:21-22).

II. Our desires reveal if we are friends with God, who jealously longs for us (James 4:4-5).

- A. We are either friends of the world or friends of God (4:4-5a).
 - We are cheating on God when our real desire is to please ourselves (4:4; 1 John 2:15-16).
 - Scripture tells us that we must chose friendship with God or the world (5a).
- B. Every believer is really longing for God, who is really longing for us (4:5b).
 - The Holy Spirit who lives in us in intensely desires our full devotion. Closeness with God Himself is what we long for.