

# HOW TO DEVELOP FAITH

## Avoid Arguments

August 02, 2009

FBC Port A

**James 4:1 NIV** *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?*

## HOW TO AVOID ARGUMENTS

James 4:1-10

### I. THE CAUSE OF ARGUMENTS: DESIRES

**James 4:1 NIV** *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?*

#### THREE DESIRES

•The Desire To Have (Possessions)

**James 4:2 NIV** *You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.*

•The Desire To Feel (Pleasure)

**James 4:3 NIV** *When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

•The Desire TO Be (Pride & Power)

**Pro 13:10 NIV** *Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.*

QUESTION: Why aren't our desires fulfilled?

*"You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives..." (vs. 2-3)*

ANSWER: Conflict with God (vs. 4-6)

**James 4:6 NIV** *But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

### II. THE CURE FOR ARGUMENTS: HUMILITY

**James 4:6 NIV** *But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

**James 4:10 NIV** *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

#### Steps to Defusing Conflict

##### 1. GIVE IN TO GOD

**James 4:7a NIV** *Submit yourselves, then, to God.*

**Col 3:15 NIV** *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

##### 2. GET WISE TO SATAN

**James 4:7b NIV** *Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

**2Cor 2:11 NIV** *in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*

##### 3. GROW CLOSER TO GOD

**James 4:8a NIV** *Come near to God and he will come near to you.*

**Isa 26:3 NIV** *You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.*

##### 4. BE WILLING TO ASK FORGIVENESS

**James 4:8 NIV** *Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

**James 4:9 NLT** *Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.*

**Php 2:3-5 NIV** *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*

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Your Faith

James

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