

Lifted Up By His Grace

RELATE

What encouragement did you receive from Sunday's message?

Tell about a time you got your heart's desire. Was it everything that you hoped it would be? Explain.

What desires do we see in the world? What is the motivation behind these desires? What makes these ideas appealing?

READ & REFLECT

James 4:1-12 Psalm 37:4 Matthew 6:33

According to verse 1, what cause fights and quarrels? How is an inner battle fought? Is a battle typically long or short? The inner struggle is between what and what? Who wins/loses when the inner battle becomes an outright fight? How can quarrels be avoided? Where/when does the battle need to be won?

What are the two reasons given for not having what is wanted? Why would God not give us what we want? What reasons are there for not asking God for something? Can we ask God for anything? Why or why not? What should be our motivation when we pray?

In what ways can Christians be unfaithful to God? What does it mean to be friends with the world? How is this hatred toward God? How does friendship with the world make us an enemy of God? Can we have friends who are not Christians?

What does the scripture mean when it says that the Holy Spirit watches over us with tender jealousy?

How is pride connected to all these misbehaviors? How do we convert pride into humility? What does God give to the humble?(Verse 6)

What does it mean to *submit yourself to God*?

In accepting God's authority, power, and greater wisdom, we are agreeing to keep His law of loving one another, and to not fight against the law or to judge it. In what ways can we give ourselves to God and draw near to Him? (See verses 7-11.)

What are the benefits of exchanging our worldly desires for pleasing ourselves to the desire of pleasing God? How is this ultimately more satisfying?

RESPOND

Challenge What battle do you have going on within you? Give it and yourself to God. Read and apply His wisdom found in Mathew 5-7.

Memorize Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:10