

“Being Slow To Anger”

Worldly Ways And Their Empty Destinations

- I. Salutation (Jam 1.1)
- II. Prologue: Respond to trials biblically, i.e., properly (Jam 1.2–18)
 - A. By welcoming them (Jam 1.2–11)
 - B. By not accusing God (Jam 1.12–18)
- III. Theme: Handling trials God’s way (Jam 1.19-20)
- IV. Handling trials God’s way necessitates godly behavior (Jam 1.21 — 5.6)
 - A. Handling trials humbly by being quick to hear (Jam 1.21 — 2.26)
 1. Being quick to hear is more than simple listening (1.21-27)
 2. Being quick to hear is more than simple morality (2.1-13)
 3. Being quick to hear is more than passive faith (2.14-26)
 - B. Handling trials humbly by being slow to speak (Jam 3.1-18)
 1. Slow speech recognizes the tongue is detrimental to showing godly wisdom (3.1-12)
 2. Slow speech recognizes godly behavior displays godly wisdom (Jam 3.13-18)
 - C. Handling trials humbly by being slow to anger (Jam 4.1 — 5.6)
 1. Anger comes from worldliness (Jam 4.1-5)

Pleasure is not sinful per se, but what is wrong is a driving desire for pleasures. The only other uses of this word in the New Testament suggests this idea: Luke 8:14, where Jesus describes those who fall among thorns as “choked by life’s ... pleasures,” or Titus 3:3, which refers to people “enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures,” and 2 Peter 2:13, where Peter describes lost false teachers as “blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures.” James’ emphasis is on a feverish search for one’s own pleasures and gratifications.

R. Kent Hughes, James: Faith That Works, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1991), 167.

Jam 4.4 — Textual variation: Jam 4.4 uses the feminine form of adultery, translated commonly “adulteresses.” If you’re reading a NKJV or AV, it will read “adulterers and adulteresses.” A viable solution is the later manuscripts upon which the AV and NKJV predominately rest, may well have a scribal change when later scribes failed to recognize the collective and figurative use of the feminine form of adultery when describing the unfaithful (spouse) to YHWH. As such, James is not speaking of “women.”

The Bible’s clear teaching of the indwelling Spirit of God is one of the most precious and powerful truths in the New Testament (John 7:39; 16:7; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 3:17; 4:30).