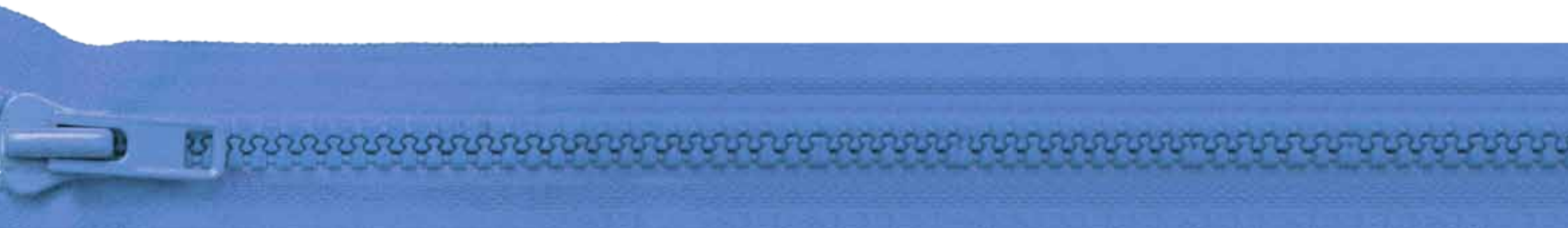


James Chapter 4



4:1-5

The Warfare Within Us: The Issue

Read James 4:1-4. What is the underlying problem here? (It's mentioned four times).

List the seven problems that James refers to in these verses:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5. not asking for anything (prayer)

6.

7. friendship with the world

THE WARFARE WITHIN
CONTROLLING FLESHLY
LUSTS



What is “the war in our members” that he refers to? Use Rom 7:22-23 and 1 Peter 2:11 to explain this concept below:

How do we win this war? Refer to James 4:4, Rom 7:24-25, Rom 8:1-4 and John 16:33, and explain the common idea:

Prayer is such an important part of our relationship with our God! It can be so hard to do, especially when we know we are not doing what God wants.

Look at the following verses to see how we can learn from James' advice:

James 4:3 - what was the problem?

John 14:13 - what should our attitude be when we pray?

Luke 22:42 - when praying, what is important to remember?

1 John 5:14-15 - what should we pray for?

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With these things in mind, take some time now and write down a short prayer in the box provided below.

James 4:6 begins with 'but'. Circle or colour this word to make it stand out. It is contrasting the lesson of the previous verses and showing that God is waiting for us to turn to him. Follow the next couple of steps to help us fight sin in our lives.

James begins and ends this section with the same lesson to emphasise his point. Read verses 6 and 10 and write the steps in the box below:

What does it mean to be humble?(verse 10) Look up a definition and write it below. Find a copy of 'The Genius of Discipleship' by Dennis Gillett and read chapter 10 'Humility'. It will help answer the questions below.

How can we show this in our life?

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HUMILITY



How would the application of humility help with the warfare and conflict in 4:1-5?

Why is this important to God? (see Psa 34:18; 51:16-17 and Isa 66:1-2)

In verse 7 James tells us to: 1. Submit to God, then 2. Resist the devil.

Easily said! The problem is trying to live it! Fill out the following boxes by talking to a friend or family member. You can then discuss your ideas in your study group in July.

How do we submit to God daily?

In what way can we resist the devil?

Write down some Biblical examples of people that did these things

James encourages us to draw nigh to God (4:8). The Jews he was writing to were not realising the wrong they had done, or acknowledging their sins. We can have this same problem. James uses a parallel to help us see how to draw close to God.

Let’s break down what he is saying in verse 8:

What’s required	To what?	For whom
Drawing near		Us
	Hands	
	Hearts	

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HUMILITY



Why does James specifically mention the hands and heart? Why these two? What is he trying to teach us?

The lesson in verse 9 can be confusing at first. Why would God want me to feel these things? The key is to remember the main lesson in this section – humbling ourselves before God. We need to fully appreciate our state before our God as sinners. This is how sin can make us feel. But it is this kind of person that God can work with and save.

How do we feel when we sin? Consider David's reaction when he had sinned in 2 Sam 12:13 and Psa 51:3-4. How does this compare to our own response to our sins?

After bringing us to look at ourselves and what our failings are, James moves on to how we see others again (compare to chapter 2). After recognising our own failings we will hopefully appreciate better the failings of others and act differently to others.

Read verses 11-12 and match the phrases below, drawing a line to its match.

Speak not evil

you are not a doer of the law.

He that speaks evil

who is able to save.

He that judges

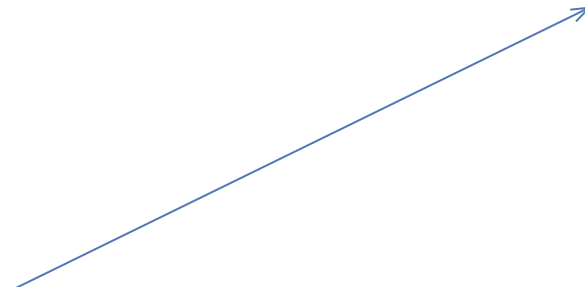
one of another.

If you judge the law

judges the law.

There is one lawgiver

speaks evil of the law.



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WINNING THE BATTLE
DEFEAT PRIDE WITH
HUMILITY



JUDGING OTHERS
REMEMBERING WE
ALL FALL SHORT

What is the “law of liberty” being spoken of here? Have a look at how James uses this elsewhere in his letter, then write these verses in your margin:

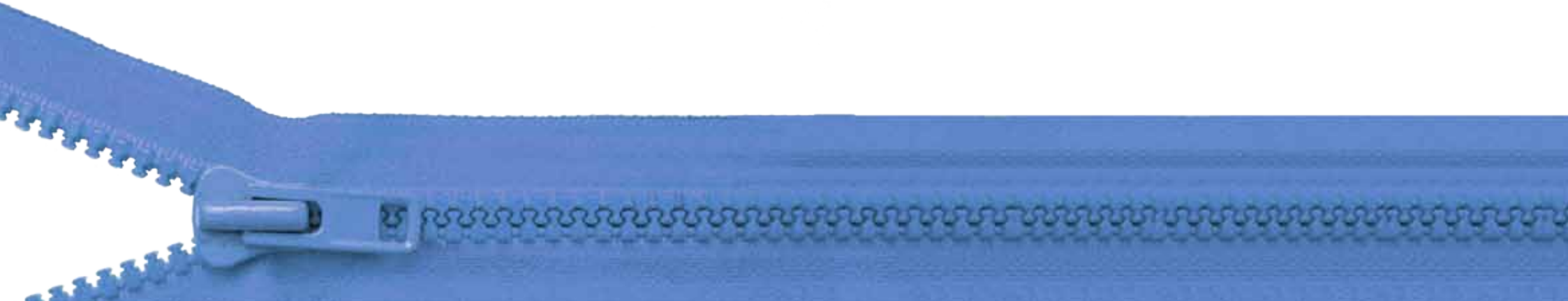
James 1:25

James 2:8-13

This is incredibly challenging! Speaking evil about others and judging others is something that comes very naturally from a child. But we must love each other, no matter what. We need to remember that we are all sinners.

Consider these passages, write them out in bulletpoint form on the post-it note below and stick it somewhere you will see it (bedroom door, next to the phone, toilet door, in the car)

- > Romans 2:1, 13
- > Romans 3:23
- > 1 Corinthians 12:24-26
- > 2 Corinthians 10:12



Great care needs to be given to this subject to ensure we get it tight (as best we can).

We are called on to judge something! Look up the quotes below to see some examples and write down what you find:

Matt 7:15-20; 2 Tim 2:16-18

Acts 15:19; 16:4; 21:25

1 Cor 5:3, 12

1 Cor 6:2-4

Gal 1:9; 2 Jn 10

Titus 3:10-11

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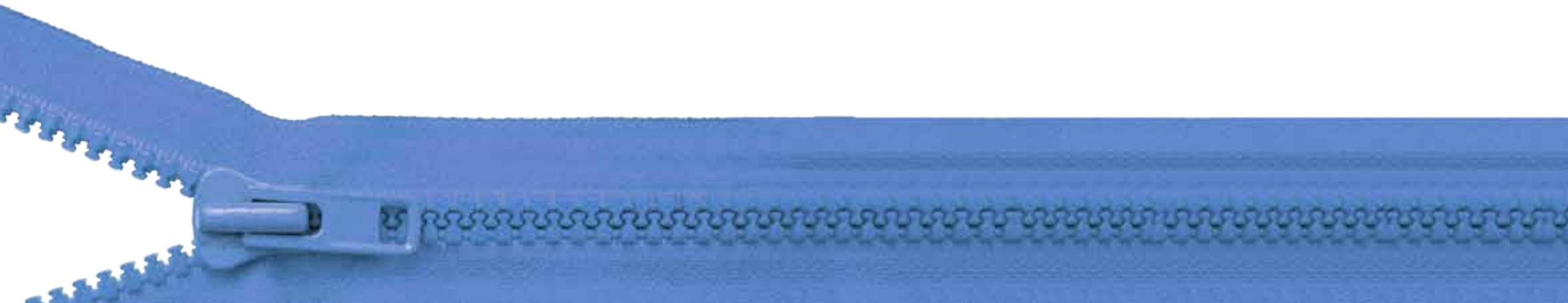
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HUMILITY



JUDGING OTHERS
REMEMBERING WE
ALL FALL SHORT

The key to judging on these matters is to be very sensitive and remain aware of our own weakness!

What does Matt 7:3-5 say about this?



James begins this section with "Go to now" or "Come now" (ESV). He draws our attention to what he has to say and shows a contrast of how life can be lived, leaving us with a very challenging statement.

Is there anything specifically wrong with buying and selling as it mentions in verse 13? What is the problem with what they were doing? Circle or colour the word "and" in to help you find the answer.

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JUDGING OTHERS
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It's when these things are the main purpose or priority in our life and they start to overtake and blur the things of God, so that even Christ's return doesn't fit into our plan.

Consider the following verses in relation to this attitude:

Gen 6:1-6

Matt 24:37-39

**THE WILL OF GOD
LOOKING FOR CHRIST'S
RETURN**



James reminds us of how life is so fragile. That it can be taken away at any time. The realisation of this shows us how important it is that we use our time wisely.

There is a real emphasis on 'time' in these verses! Colour in the following words:

James 4:13

"Today", "Tomorrow", "Year".

James 4:14

"Tomorrow", "Little time".

Now, look up the following verses and summarise their message.

Eph 5:15-17

Col 4:5

1 Pet 1:24-25

1 John 2:17

This may be worth marking into your margin near verses 14, 15.

THE WARFARE WITHIN
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WINNING THE BATTLE
DEFEAT PRIDE WITH
HUMILITY



JUDGING OTHERS
REMEMBERING WE
ALL FALL SHORT

How do we see our life in the future? Do our plans for the future include God's? Do our plans complement the plans of God?

Write your plans before and after Christ's return. Make sure they are able to work together.

While I wait for Christ:

After Christ returns:

**THE WILL OF GOD
LOOKING FOR CHRIST'S
RETURN**



4:13-17

According To The Will Of God

Verse 15 contrasts with the attitude of those James is writing to. It's a lesson that we need to apply to every day of our life. This is where the phrase "God Willing" comes from.

How can this way of thinking help us understand:

God's plan:

God's work in my life:

The focus of life:

The things I do:

THE WARFARE WITHIN
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WINNING THE BATTLE
DEFEAT PRIDE WITH
HUMILITY



JUDGING OTHERS
REMEMBERING WE
ALL FALL SHORT

How do you think applying verse 15 would help you to be closer to God in the way you live?

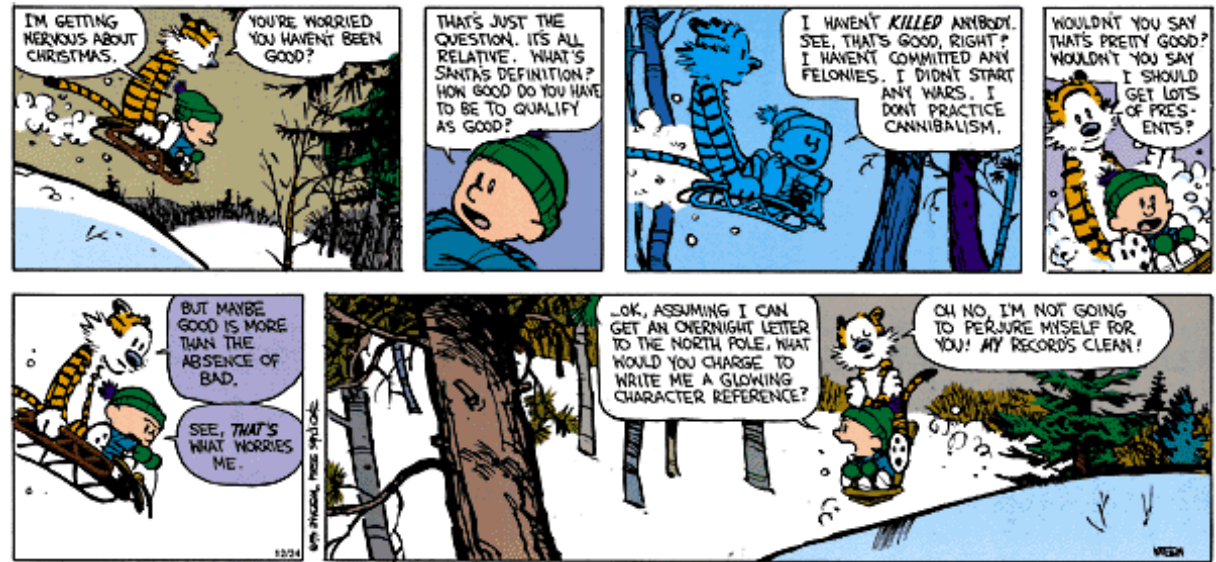
Chapter 4 ends with another challenging verse. Write it out in the box below.

THE WILL OF GOD
LOOKING FOR CHRIST'S
RETURN



4:13-17

According To The Will Of God



James concludes with this as he has finished his argument. It causes the reader to think about what has been said, and spark an awareness of responsibility that needs to be acted upon. He picks up on the main theme taken from James 1:22 "be doers of the word, and not hearers only".

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JUDGING OTHERS
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The Chapter 4 Challenge:

Get a group of two or three of your friends, and PRACTISE true religion:

- > "If the Lord will" - remember that God is in control; we have no idea what tomorrow will bring. Use "God willing" in your life - actually speak it in conversation. It may help you to learn the lesson.
- > Write down your two main failings, and pray to God for assistance dealing with them. Remember these the next time you are about to say something about another person's failings. This month, practise humility!
- > Are you a friend of the world? This month, wherever you go or whatever you do, ask yourself: Would Christ come here with me? Would Christ do this with me?

Challenge themed around James 4:4,6,10,15

**THE WILL OF GOD
LOOKING FOR CHRIST'S
RETURN**



CHAPTER 4 RECAP

THE WARFARE WITHIN
CONTROLLING FLESHLY
LUSTS



WINNING THE BATTLE
DEFEAT PRIDE WITH HUMILITY



JUDGING OTHERS
REMEMBERING WE ALL
FALL SHORT



THE WILL OF GOD
LOOKING FOR
CHRIST'S RETURN

