

James 4:1-3
Love and War

Re-Read:

Today's passage calls for a retrospective and introspective self-assessment. In James 4:1-3, he speaks to those who are a part of the church body who are controlled by the flesh rather than the Spirit. Love flows from a spirit-filled life, but conflict accompanies the flesh. How have you seen these truths manifest themselves in your life?

Review:

Outline from Sunday's Sermon

- I. Conflict among us
- II. Conflict within us

Respond:

- 1) If you hadn't already read the following verses, how would you have initially responded to the rhetorical question in verse 1a, "What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?"
- 2) Since the word translated *passions* (Greek: *hedonon*) is meant in a negative sense in this context, what are the passions that cause conflict in you?
- 3) Given that James may be using hyperbole when he uses the word for *slay* (Greek: *phoneuete*) to describe the destructive consequences of sinful obsessions and covetousness, what are you holding on to that is destroying your life or the lives of those around you?
- 4) Do you keep a record of the ways God has answered prayers in your life whether in the way you hoped or not? Do you recognize when you pray with wrong intentions?

Reflect:

As you pray, consider John's reassurance in 1 John 5:14 which reads, "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us." Be conscientious in your prayers, taking note of what you ask for in light of what scripture reveals about God's character and will.