

## Men in Christ – Friday July 26, 2024 – Gary Henecke DD

Where do the conflicts and where do the quarrels among you come from? Is it not from this, from your **passions** that battle inside you? You desire and you do not have; you murder and envy and you cannot obtain; you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask; you ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, so you can spend it on your passions. Adulterers, do you not know that friendship with the world means hostility toward God? So whoever decides to be the world's friend makes himself God's enemy. Or do you think the scripture means nothing when it says, "The spirit that God caused to live within us has an envious yearning"? But he gives greater grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble." So submit to God. But resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and make your hearts pure, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn, and weep. Turn your laughter into mourning and your joy into despair. (Jam 4:1-9 NET)

- I. ἡ ἡδονή, ἡ ἡδονή, ἡ *pleasure, enjoyment* in an unfavorable sense (Mark 4:1-25; Luke 8:14; Titus 3:3-10; 2 Peter 2.
  - a. Your wants – that which gives you pleasure.
- II. *James 4:1-3*
  - a. *Now, the source of quarrels and struggles among you - where do they come from? They arise from the conflict for pleasure within yourselves! You desire what you do not have, and never obtain it, you are selfish and envious of what others have and you do not.*
  - b. *Consequently, in your frustration you struggle and compete with one another. You don't get what you want because you don't seek it from God. And when you do ask, God doesn't give it to you, for you ask in the wrong spirit - to satisfy your own desires.*
- III. *James 4:4-6 -*
  - a. *You are like unfaithful wives, flirting with the glamor of this world, and never realizing that to be the world's lover means becoming at conflict with God!*
  - b. *Anyone who deliberately chooses to love the world is thereby making himself hostile to God!*
    - i. *Do you think what the scriptures have to say about this is a mere formality?*
    - ii. *The Spirit God has caused to live in us longs in deep desire for us!*
      1. *He gives us greater grace.*
      2. *God resists the haughty but gives grace to the humble.'*
      3. *Submit to God – resist the devil and he will withdraw.*
      4. *If we are humble enough to receive it.*
- IV. *James 4:7 - Be humble in the presence of God.*
- V. *James 4:8-10 - Draw close to God and he will come near to you.*
  - a. *Realize that you have sinned and get your hands clean again.*
  - b. *Realize that you have been disloyal and get your hearts made true once more. As you come close to God you should be deeply sorry, you should be grieved, you should even be in tears.*
  - c. *Your laughter will have to become mourning; your high spirits will have to become heartfelt dejection. You will have to feel very small in the sight of God before he will set you on your feet once more (establish you)!*