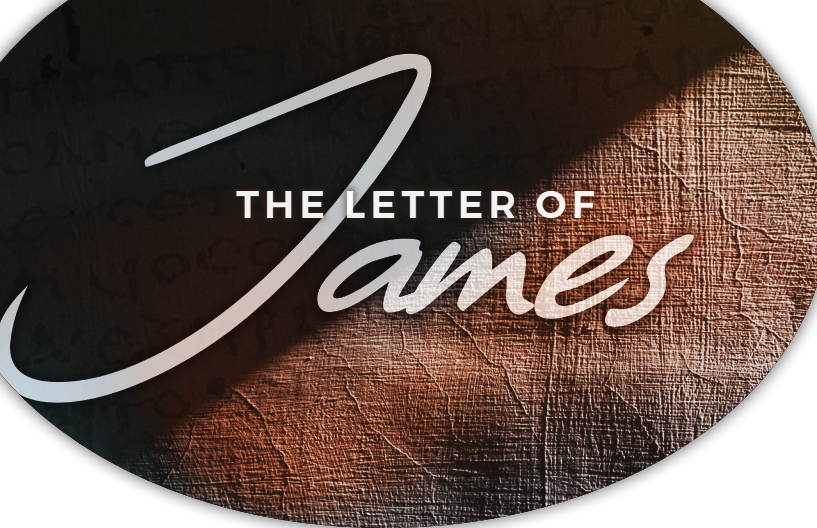




THE LETTER OF *James*

OCTOBER 11, 2026

Greater Grace

JAMES 4:1-6

James 4 continues the primary theme of the letter: **Christian maturity demonstrated through practical, everyday obedience.** There is an inseparable connection between genuine faith and the way that faith is lived out. God's Word transforms believers into mature disciples whose faith is demonstrated through everyday obedience, especially during seasons of trial.

In chapter 4, James continues his call to spiritual maturity by addressing the conflict that exists among believers. His tone is hard-hitting, direct, and unapologetic. James does not merely address the outward conflict; he exposes the deeper problem beneath it. The conflict between Christians is only a symptom of a much greater spiritual problem. James asks, **"Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?"** (James 4:1).

The battle begins on the inside before it ever appears on the outside. What is happening externally is ultimately connected to what is happening internally—in the heart and mind. Disordered desires produce sinful actions, and those actions eventually create conflict in our relationships with others.

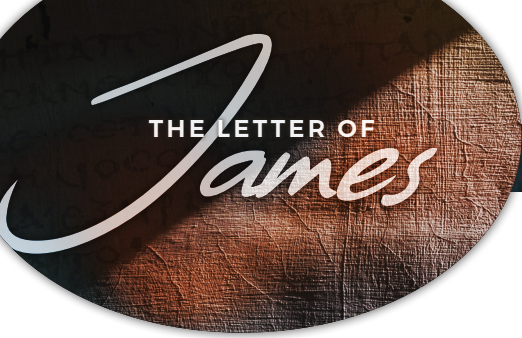
James is revealing a war that every believer faces: a war against the flesh, the world, and the devil. It is a battle that begins where no one else can see. It begins in our desires, thoughts, motives, and affections. Yet what happens within us eventually works its way outward and can bring division, conflict, and destruction into our relationships.

But James does not leave us hopeless.

The answer to our sinful desires is not found in our own strength. We need grace. We need God's grace to fight the battle within us and to pursue the spiritual maturity to which God has called us. And this is where James gives us one of the great words of hope in this chapter:

"But He gives a greater grace." (James 4:6)

Our flesh may wage war within us. The world may pull at our affections. The devil may oppose us. But God's grace is greater. The same God who calls us to spiritual maturity is the God who supplies the grace necessary to grow.



1. The existence of conflict exposes a deeper problem. (4:1-3)

- a. The root of the problem is from within (selfishness/self-centeredness).
- b. Self-centeredness impacts our relationship with others, and with God.

2. Misplaced loyalty (friendship with the world) is incompatible with Christian Discipleship. (4:4)

It has been said, worldliness is adopting the philosophy of the world and living by it. In James 4:4, "worldliness means giving your affection, allegiance, and desires to the values and priorities of the world in a way that puts you in opposition to God.

3. God provides the necessary grace for spiritual growth to those who humble themselves! (5-6)

(Proverbs 3:34; Isaiah 66:2; Matthew 5:3, 23:12)