

SERIES TITLE: WISDOM IN THE MAKING

PART TWO: PRAYER MAKING

TEXT: JAMES 4:3-10

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

James is the wisdom book of the New Testament. This series focuses on a section of the book that deals with four practical subjects: interpersonal conflict, prayer, decisions, and finances. In this text we find God's wisdom for each of these areas.

CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE

James explains that living in the peace of God's wisdom also means rethinking how we pray. Just as lives based on earthly wisdom do not reflect the grace of Christ, prayers that are self-serving are based on worldly thinking. He encourages believers to approach God with humility and faith.

FOCUS QUESTION

Describe an important answer to prayer that you received.

EXAMINATION

4:1 What is the root cause of conflict?

4:2 What is our negative response to not getting what we want?

How is it possible that "you do not have, because you do not ask God?"

4:3 How would you define the wrong or worthless motive mentioned here?

4:4-6 What is really behind our requests? In what way do worldliness, self-interest and pride dominate our prayer-making?

4:7-10 According to this, what do we need to do to rid ourselves of worthless motives?

EXPLORATION

- Psalm 51
- Isaiah 55:6-7

- Joel 2:12-13
- Matthew 6:7-13
- Philippians 4:6-9

APPLICATION.

- How does it help to realize that so much of your relational conflict is the result of not getting what you want?
- What are some things that keep you from asking God?
- How can you pray for yourself without praying selfishly?
- What does humble prayer look like?
- What does bold prayer look like?
- Why is confession important for dealing with our frustrated desire?

SUMMATION

- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?