

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM JAMES 4:7-9

OPEN

- ✦ Would you change the way you are living if you could see your future? Why or why not?
- ✦ Do you think people pray enough for their pastors and for one another, especially in regard to “staying close to God”? What are some factors that keep us from this? What is one step or idea that you have been able to build into your life to do this?

EXPLORE

- ✦ 4:7-10 How did James describe the way we should come to God?
- ✦ 4:7 How does the devil react when a person resists him? How does that make you feel? How can we stand against the devil?
- ✦ 4:8 How can we draw near to God? What does that look like? It appears to say that we need to make the first move. Discuss.
- ✦ 4:9 Should this verse look any different whether it is Jews or Swedes? Do believers take sin seriously today; pick sins to “feel bad” about? Discuss.

DIG

- ✦ Consider Matthew 4:1-11. What devices or schemes did Satan use in tempting Jesus? How did Jesus respond?
- ✦ Consider Genesis 3:1-7. What devices or schemes did Satan use in tempting Eve? How did Eve respond?
- ✦ Look at Hebrews 10:19-25. Notice the three exhortations that begin with “let us.” What does the third exhortation have to do with the first two?
- ✦ According to Ephesians 6:13-18, what weaponry has God provided for you to stand strong in faith? Which one seems to help you the most? Why?
- ✦ It is frequently said that what matters is the heart, and for good reason. Jesus taught, “That which comes out of the man, that defiles the man” (Mark 7:20). How does James’s exhortation about our actions complement this truth?
- ✦ Jesus taught that no one “can serve two masters” (Matt. 6:24). James speaks to Christians who are double-minded. How do these two passages relate to one another? Why is this significant?
- ✦ Use James’s admonitions along with what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 7 to discuss some distinctions between godly sorrow and mere earthly sorrow.
- ✦ Discuss the progress of submission and humility to godly repentance. Why is godly sorrow over sin essential to overcoming worldliness?

APPLY

- ✦ What fiery darts (i.e., temptations) are you facing right now? How can you resist the Devil?
- ✦ Are there behaviors or words or thoughts for which you need cleansing? If so, don’t go to sleep tonight without running to Christ.
- ✦ When is the last time you experienced godly sorrow over your sin?