

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – May 29, 2022**

**Theme: James: Faith in Action    Topic: Overcoming Worldliness and Strife**

**Main Texts: James 4:1 - 12**

**Key verse: James 4:7–** *‘Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.’* (NKJV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** Jesus Christ radically transforms us from the inside out, the moment we put our faith in Him and ask Him to become the Lord and Saviour of our life. Yet, within us lies a battle we must all face. Our flesh still craves the things of this world; however, our spirit belongs to God. The Spirit of God in the believer and the flesh are opposed to one another in what each desire. The tension created by these opposing natures can be strong. Apostle Paul felt this tension and lamented, *‘What a wretched man I am. Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?’* (Romans 7:24 NIV). And *“The Spirit God made to live in us wants us only for Himself.”* (James 4:5b ERV), So how can we keep ourselves only for God when the sinful nature is right there with us? Even if one lived in isolation, as Apostle Paul found out, *‘...evil is right there with me’* (Romans 7:21 NIV).

1. **Read Proverbs 20:3; 1 Corinthians 3:3; James 4: 1-5, 11-12. (a) What are the causes of fights and quarrels among believers? (b) What does it say about us that these things occur in our midst? (c) How do these align or deviate from God’s plans and purposes for us believers?**

Strife is a sign of worldliness and of underlying sin and is a dangerous tool the devil uses to destroy relationships in marriage, business, and others. And as in the Corinthians Church, strife is harmful to the Church of God. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines worldliness as ‘relating to or devoted to this world and its pursuits rather than to spiritual affairs.’ And Collins dictionary defines strife as ‘angry or violent struggle, conflict, rivalry or contention, especially of a bitter kind.’ Strife is deeper than arguments, and usually involves bitterness. But God does not want His children to be embroiled in strife. Therefore, He says, *‘submit to God. Resist the devil... come near to God...’* (James 4:7-10). That is if we want to overcome worldliness and strife. We must choose whether we will heed God or our sinful nature. We cannot have it both ways as they value hugely different things.

2. **Read Proverbs 28:25; James 4:6-10 (a) Let participants identify the ten remedies James offers as cure to worldliness and strife. (b) One of these remedies to worldliness and strife is to submit to God (James 4:7). What does it mean to submit to God in this context? And how does it help in overcoming worldliness and strife? (c) James 4:10 commands us to humble ourselves before God. Let participants share why they think this is important and how they have used this humbling of oneself to overcome worldliness and strife**

Another way our worldliness manifests to cause strife is in what we say. Last week, we looked at ‘Bridling the Tongue.’ And James 3:18 concluded that our tongue can be weapon for peace. In James 4:11-12, God says, *“Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, and judges the law...”* (NKJV). *Katalaleó* is the Greek word translated as ‘speak evil of.’ It means to slander, speak down to in a hostile or deriding way. Instead, God says *“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”* (Ephesians 4:29 NLT). God wants us to focus on being followers of the law of God rather than sit as judge over it. God is the only One qualified to judge His own Law.

3. **Read Psalm 101:5; 26:20; Ephesians 4:29, 31-32; James 4:11-12. (a) How do these passages relate to the topic? (b) What does it tell us about strife and how it can be avoided? (c) Why should we realize that God alone is qualified to judge people? James says that instead of fighting to get what we want, that we should ask God for it (James 4:2d (CEV). How does prayer help in dealing with worldliness in this context? How will you apply this in a situation you are aware of?**

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**Prayer:** *Dear Father, please help me to increase in love for You and not for the world. Please give me self-control over the desires of my heart and its sinful urges to eliminate strife in my dealings with others. In Jesus’ Name I pray, Amen*