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# FAITH IN ACTION

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## Part 4 - Resisting Worldliness

Feel free to write notes and thoughts in the space provided. May God speak to us today.

### James 4:1-10 (ESV)

*What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

+ **Fights and 'Quarrels' from Within**

+ **It's a Heart Issue!**

+ **Cultivating Relationship with God in Prayer**

+ **Our Wake Up Call**

+ **In 'Active Opposition' to God**

+ **Walking Differently without Realising**

+ **Deep in the World!**

+ **The Influence on us and the Church**

+ **Humility**

+ **The 'D' Word**

+ **Pushing Back**

+ **Drawing Near**

## **Next Steps**

Identify what areas in your life you have become aware of today that need change. What is it going to look like for you to move away from these things, resist the one influencing these things and move towards God?

**Areas of life to honestly look at:**

- + Online Media/Social Media
- + Interests
- + Possessions
- + Property
- + Career
- + Other: .....

Where could the enemy have been at work in these things, pulling you away from your relationship with God? What can you do about that? Where can you push back today? Don't waste a minute of the opportunity to do so!

Come and see a Pastor or a member of the Prayer Team or a Life Group leader or friend if you need that extra encouragement or support doing so.

Go and do something in the opposite direction. Buy a new Bible or book on spiritual growth or a new devotional. Make an extra-ordinary effort to draw near to God and to avoid sin in your life.

## Questions to Discuss

1. What passions and treasure has the Holy Spirit pointed out in your life? Where have you discovered you've been pointing your heart that has warred against your relationship with God?
2. What affect do you think this has had on your own life and faith and how you see the church?
3. Do you feel like you are aware of the 'struggle' we are in, in this world and the schemes of the enemy in your life? Do you ever think about the reality of Satan in your day to day? Why/Why not?
4. Read John 15:19 – read it over a couple of times. What do you think about this verse?
5. For further opportunity to reflect, read Jesus' words to us describing His kingdom which is not of this world in Matthew 5. What is Jesus highlighting to you?