



# Daily Reflections

**May 17, 2016**

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## Scripture

**James 4: 1-10**

Beloved:

Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from?

Is it not from your passions that make war within your members?

You covet but do not possess.

You kill and envy but you cannot obtain;  
you fight and wage war.

You do not possess because you do not ask.

You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly,  
to spend it on your passions.

Adulterers!

Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God?

Therefore, whoever wants to be a lover of the world  
makes himself an enemy of God.

Or do you suppose that the Scripture speaks without meaning when it says,  
The spirit that he has made to dwell in us tends toward jealousy?

But he bestows a greater grace; therefore, it says:  
God resists the proud,  
but gives grace to the humble.  
So submit yourselves to God.  
Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.  
Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.  
Cleanse your hands, you sinners,  
and purify your hearts, you of two minds.  
Begin to lament, to mourn, to weep.  
Let your laughter be turned into mourning  
and your joy into dejection.  
Humble yourselves before the Lord  
and he will exalt you.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

James is furious about those who are causing divisions within his close knit community. He will go so far as to call them "adulterers." Why? Because instead of uniting their minds and hearts to Jesus, they have betrayed Him in favor of the world and all of its "stuff." Jesus once said in Luke's Gospel, "You cannot serve both God and mammon." A duplicitous life leads to sin and division within the community. His solution? Surrender your life to God alone.

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## **Food for your Journey**

Pastor Rick Warren's take on happiness: "Some people live and die with bitter hearts, but it's a choice to live that way. In this one regard, we all have the power to decide how tragedy affects us. If we choose bitterness, then we'll only end up hurting ourselves and we'll also shut the door on our own happiness because we can't be happy and bitter at the same time.

"One skill that will help people make the choice to be happy is learning to focus on what's left, not what's lost. In a crisis, God wants us to still be thankful for what we have. As I counsel people in crisis, I encourage them to make a list of all the good things in their lives. I find it is impossible to be grateful and depressed at the same time."

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, This day I surrender my life to You. Please lead me, Lord, in Your way. Amen.