

James 4:10

4 ¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You 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. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You 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. ⁵Or 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"? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. [English Standard Version \(ESV\)](#) The Holy Bible, English Standard Version Copyright © 2001 by [Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.](#)

'I have often wondered that persons who make boast of professing the Christian religion – namely love, joy, peace, temperance, and charity to all men – should quarrel with such rancorous animosity, and display daily towards one another such bitter hatred, that this, rather than the virtues which they profess, is the readiest criteria of their faith.' (Spinoza)

'Here the valiant swordsmen of the world have showed themselves mere cowards, who have come out of the field with victorious banners, and then lived, yea, died slaves to a base lust at home. As one could say of a great Roman captain, who, as he rode in his triumphant chariot through Rome, had his eye never off a courtesan [prostitute] that walked along the street: Behold how this goodly captain, that had conquered such potent armies, is himself conquered.' (William Gurnall)

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIER 'Go for victory' James 4:1-10

The defeated Christian life

- at war with each other ¹
- surrender in the war within
- enemies of God

The victorious Christian life

- The wrong path ²
- The right path
 - o Humble yourself before God
 - o Submit yourself to God
 - Active unwavering allegiance
 - Deliberately cultivated fellowship
 - Thoroughgoing purification ³

¹ Matthew 5:21-22; 1 John 3:15; Mark 7:21-23; 1 Peter 2:11
² David Powlinson: *Power Encounters: Reclaiming Spiritual Warfare*, Baker Book House: 2000
³ Isaiah 1:16