

Let Every Man Be Slow to Wrath: Part 1 (James 4:1-10)

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REVIEW

Let every man be swift to hear (1:21–2:26)
Let every man be slow to speak (3:1–18)
Let every man be slow to wrath (4:1–5:6)

NEW EXPOSITION

4:1 Wars and fights among believers arise from a selfish pleasure-focus

The word for pleasure is *hēdonē* (from which we get hedonism)

4:2 They lust & lack; they murder & lack; they war & lack; but do not pray (in the proper way)

4:3 They pray, but do not receive, because they pray with selfish motives (double-mindedness)

4:4 Unfaithful believers need to know: Friendship with the world makes one an enemy to God

4:5 Scripture means it when it tells us that the indwelling Spirit jealously yearns for us

This is not a quotation from Scripture, but a summary of Scriptural teaching

1. Our God is a jealous God: Exodus 20:5; 34:14; Zechariah 8:2
2. The Holy Spirit is God and He indwells believers
3. James hints that believers ignore this truth do so at their own risk

4:6 [God is jealous for us to be friends, so] He gives grace to the humble, but resists the proud

4:7 [In light of God giving more grace to the humble, but resisting the proud] believers need to respond humbly to God [& His word] & to resist Satan

4:8a God will draw near to believers who draw near to Him

4:8b [Drawing near to God for] requires cleansing the hands and purifying the hearts

4:9 These sinful and double-minded believers should grieve over their sin, rather than being joyful

4:10 God will (at the appropriate time exalt) believers who humble themselves before Him

CONCLUSION