**Week of January 13, 2019**

**James 4:1-10**

1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot\* obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. 4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever\* therefore will be\* a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? 6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today scripture, James addresses the issue of Christians fighting each other. James is the earthly brother of Jesus Christ. The worlds fights and quarrels are plural, which would suggest that this was an ongoing problem among the people. James let the people know that the main reason they continued to have disagreements was because they wee secretly battling their own spiritual issues. Janes identified jealousy as being one of he main reason why people could not get along with each other. Each person wanted something that the other person had, and when he or she could not get it, a quarrel or fight would occur.

James faulted the people for their behavior because they were seeking after their own selfish desires instead of asking God to bless them with the things, He wanted them to have. James told the people that when they prayed to God, they asked for the things in a manner that was not right to God. They were asking to satisfy their own pleasures and contradictory to what God had for them. James called the people adulterers as they had turned away from God and seeking their own desires through the world. James told the people that the cure for their selfishness is humility. James encouraged the people to draw close to God because only he has the power to keep them from sin. Those who come close to God will find that God’s response is to come close to them. James final though t teaches that we believers humble themselves and admit that they need Him, God will give them the power to uphold His commands.

This week I ask that you give any jealousy, envy or hatred to God. Free yourself from it and let him give you the true blessings he has for you.

*Lesson is a reprint from the Sunday School Publishing Board*