

*Lesson 8*

## *Transforming Faith*

The Epistle of James  
A Find-Out-for-Yourself Bible Study  
for Women

With Elizabeth Rice Handford

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*Faith That Transforms*

**8** *Recognizes True Wisdom*

1. Please read James 3:14 through James 4:5. If someone says he is wise, how will we know it is true? (James 3:13)

\_\_\_\_\_ What attitudes of heart would disprove this boast? (James 3:14) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ What four things are true about this kind of wisdom? (Vs 15) It comes not \_\_\_\_\_, but is \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

What are other words to describe “bitter envying and strife”?

\_\_\_\_\_

We freely acknowledge that murder and adultery are from Satan. But do we realize envy and jealousy and quarrels come from the same horrible source?

2. Wherever you find envy and strife, what will you also find? (James 3:16) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Why? (James 2:10) \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 6:45) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What might be the relationship between the “confusion” of James 3:16 and the “double-mindedness” of James 1:8?

\_\_\_\_\_

*James 3:16,17, in the New American Standard says: "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy."*

3. What characteristics contrast the wisdom from above with the wisdom from below (James 3:14-17):

From above:

From below:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Which of these is most important, judging from its position in the list? (And considering that none of them could we produce without supernatural help from God) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is our only source of true, pure wisdom? (Psalm 19;7,8)

\_\_\_\_\_ How will this wisdom affect our relationship with others? (James 3:17,18) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ What is the eternal result for them, and for us? (vs. 18) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the source of conflict in your heart? (James 4:1)

\_\_\_\_\_ In James 1:14,15, what did we learn was the inevitable

consequence of lust? \_\_\_\_\_

What effect does lust have on your body (KJV: "in your members") (James 4:1) \_\_\_\_\_

What might a man do in order to satisfy his lusts? (4:2) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

But why don't we get what we want? (vs. 2) \_\_\_\_\_

5. But sometimes we *do* ask. Why don't we sometimes get our prayers answered? (James 4:3) \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of things might we pray for that we know for sure would be asking "amiss"—that is, asking with the wrong motives or asking for something that would actually hurt us?

The "world" in verse 4, KJV, does not refer to people, but to the realm of sensual pleasure. If we have the friendship of the world of sensual pleasure, what will it do in our relationship with God? (vs. 4) \_\_\_\_\_

And what does this make us? (vs. 4) \_\_\_\_\_

How could loving the world instead of God make us like an adulterer? (2 Corinthians 11:2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 5:25-28) \_\_\_\_\_

*God wants His relationship with us to be single-minded, absolutely committed, just as a loving wife would not even think about betraying her husband by wanting another man.*

*That is the way God feels about us. That is why, in Exodus 20:5 He tells us He is a jealous God: He so treasures His relationship with us He cannot bear the thought of our loving another instead of Him, or looking to someone else to satisfy our hearts desires!*

6. That is the import of James 4:5, translated in NASB: "Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: 'He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us'"? What did Jesus say was the first and great commandment? (Mark 12:30,31) "To love God with

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

*When we remember that Jesus loved us so much, that He not only died for us to give us eternal life, but that He offers us all the riches of Heaven in His love, surely love for Him ought to well up in our hearts so great that the sensual pleasures of the world would become uninteresting and distasteful!*

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