



Sermon

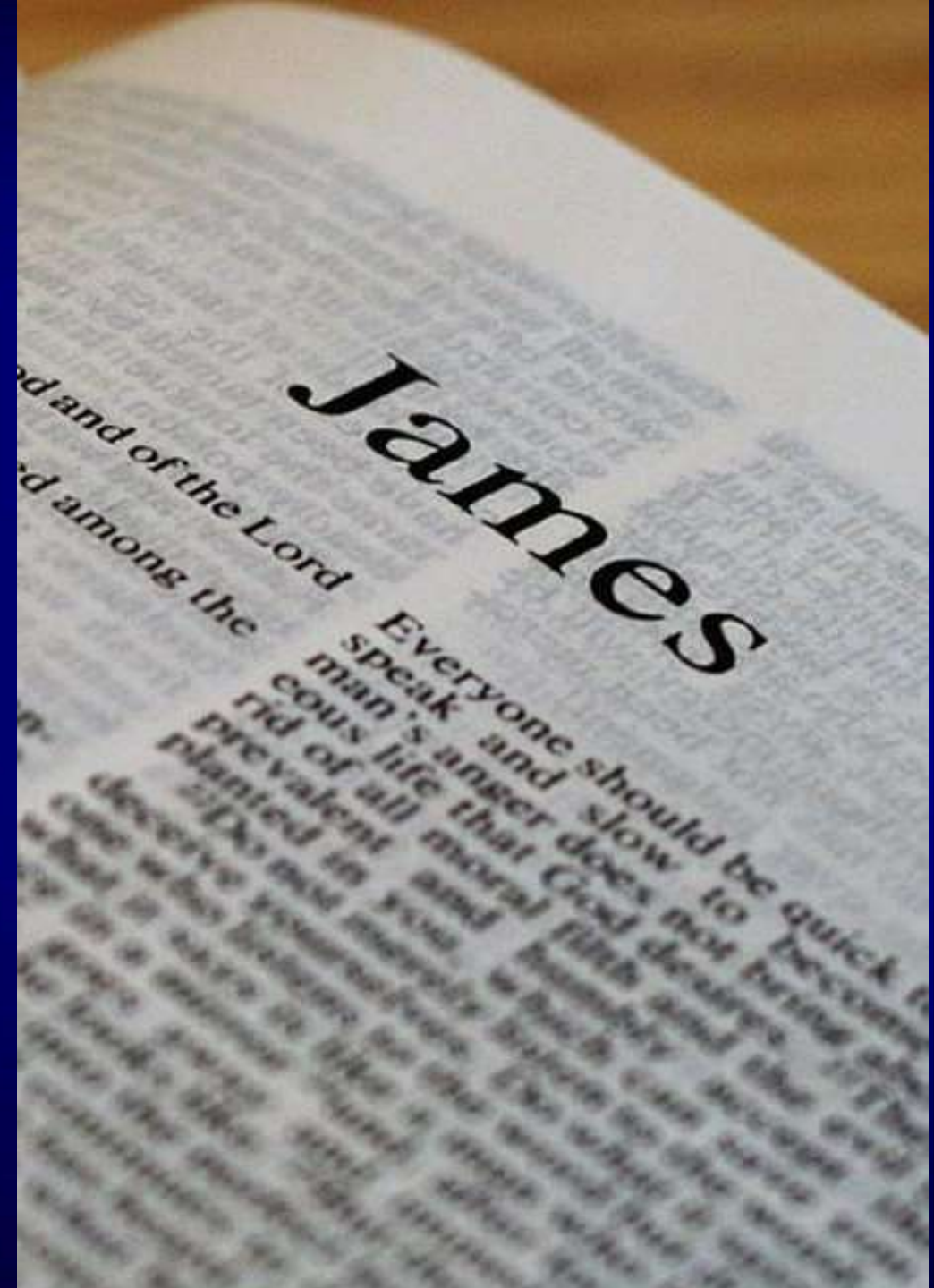




'...brothers and sisters...'
(James 1:2, 19; 2:1)

Signs highlighted:

Self-favouritism
Faith without deeds
Unhealthy words
False wisdom



HIGHLIGHTING THE SIGNS

‘What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.’ (James 4:1-3)

HIGHLIGHTING THE SIGNS - HORIZONTALLY

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HIGHLIGHTING THE SIGNS - HORIZONTALLY

‘You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.” But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment...’

(Matthew 5:21-22)

‘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.’

(17th century Jewish philosopher Spinoza)



**HIGHLIGHTING
THE SIGNS -
HORIZONTALLY**

**‘...your desires that
battle within you...’
(James 4:1)**



HIGHLIGHTING THE SIGNS - VERTICALLY

‘...You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.’

(James 4:2-3)

**‘Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.’**

(Psalm 37:4)

HIGHLIGHTING THE SIGNS - VERTICALLY

**‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.’**

(Matthew 6:9-10)



DIAGNOSING THE SITUATION

- GRIEVOUS DISLOYALTY

‘You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?’

(James 4:4-5)

DIAGNOSING THE SITUATION

- GRIEVOUS DISLOYALTY

“...like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you, Israel, have been unfaithful to me,’ declares the Lord.”
(Jeremiah 3:20)



DIAGNOSING THE SITUATION

- GRIEVOUS DISLOYALTY

**‘Anyone who loves their
father or mother more
than me is not worthy of
me; anyone who loves
their son or daughter
more than me is not
worthy of me.’ (Mt. 10:37)**



DIAGNOSING THE SITUATION

- GRIEVOUS
DISLOYALTY

WAKE UP
CALL



THE SOLUTION

- GRACE-FUELLED LOYALTY

**‘But he gives us more
grace. That is why
Scripture says:
‘God opposes the
proud but shows
favour to the humble.’
(James 4:6)**



THE SOLUTION - GRACE-FUELLED LOYALTY

“What comfort there is in this verse! It tells us that God is tirelessly on our side. He never falters in respect of our needs, he always has more grace at hand for us. He is never less than sufficient, he always has more and yet more to give. Whatever we may forfeit when we put self first...there is always more grace. No matter what we do to him, he is never beaten....His resources are never at an end, his patience is never exhausted, his initiative never stops, his generosity knows no limit: he gives more grace.”

(Alec Motyer, *James*)

THE SOLUTION

- GRACE-FUELLED LOYALTY

**‘Submit yourselves,
then, to God...
Humble yourselves
before the Lord, and
he will lift you up.’
(James 4:7, 10)**



THE SOLUTION - GRACE-FUELLED LOYALTY

‘Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.’

(James 4:8-9)

‘Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.’

(James 5:13)

James 4:1-10

Turning from
grievous
disloyalty

To grace-fuelled
loyalty

