

*"Making Marriage Work by . . .
Slaying the Dragon"*
James 4:1-10
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In order to slay the dragon we must:

A. Look in the mirror... (James 4:1-6)

1. Because of our sin nature. (James 4:1-3)
2. Because of our unfaithfulness to God. (James 4:4-5)
3. Because of our pride. (James 4:6)

“...our biggest, most abiding, most life-shaping problem exists inside of us and not outside of us. What we actually need to be rescued from is us.”

Paul David Tripp, *Whiter than Snow*, Crossway Books,
Wheaton, IL, 2008, p. 114.

B. Come near to God. (James 4:7-10)

Coming near to God involves...

1. Submitting to God. (James 4:7)
2. Resisting the devil. (James 4:7)
3. Dealing with sin. (James 4:8-9)
4. Humbling ourselves before God. (James 4:10)

“It is the sinner dwelling in the full light of God’s holy, redeeming love, in the experience of that full indwelling of divine love, which comes through Christ and the Holy Spirit, who cannot but be humble. Not to be occupied with thy sin, but to be occupied with God, brings deliverance from self.”

Andrew Murray, *Humility and Absolute Surrender*,
Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA, 2005, p. 39.

“Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it.

You wouldn't think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not? Because you know you'd be asking for what you have no right to. You're spoiled children, each wanting your own way.

You're cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way. And do you suppose God doesn't care? The proverb has it that ‘he's a fiercely jealous lover.’ And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find. It's common knowledge that ‘God goes against the willful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble.’

So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.

James 4:1-10, *The Message*

Application Questions

1. How does my sin nature impact my marriage?
2. How does my love for the things of this world impact my marriage?
3. How does my pride impact my marriage?
4. Am I submitting all areas of my life to God? If not, what must I do?
5. In order to resist satan and his lies I must...
6. The sins I need to confess and repent of are...
(Be sure to think of the idols in your life)
7. For me to humble myself before God and my spouse I need to...