

(in)FORMATION

GAINING INFORMATION FROM JAMES, SO WE CAN BE IN FORMATION LIKE JESUS.



NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER
September 27, 2026

FORMED UNDER PRESSURE

Pastor Brian Benton | Turlock
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

Main Passage: See James 4:1-10

1. Am I in _____ with God?

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? James 4:1 (NLT)

You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong, you want only what will give you pleasure. James 4:2-3 (NLT)

Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine. Luke 22:42 (NLT)

2. Do I have a spirit of _____?

You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:4-6 (NLT)

3. Do I desire to _____ to God?

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. James 4:7-10 (NLT)

My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins. James 5:19-20 (NLT)

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Main Passage: See James 4:1-10

1. Am I in ALIGNMENT with God?

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? James 4:1 (NLT)

You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong, you want only what will give you pleasure. James 4:2-3 (NLT)

Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine. Luke 22:42 (NLT)

2. Do I have a spirit of HUMILITY?

You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:4-6 (NLT)

3. Do I desire to DRAW CLOSE to God?

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. James 4:7-10 (NLT)

My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins. James 5:19-20 (NLT)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
September 27, 2026

CONNECT

Have you ever had a situation where you knew you were right, but the way you handled it was wrong? What happened?

ENGAGE

What part of this weekend's message challenged or encouraged you the most?

GROW

1. James says that many of our conflicts come from the desires that are "at war within us." Why do you think it's easier to focus on what someone else did wrong than to look at what is happening inside of us?
2. Brian asked, "Am I in alignment with God?" What do you think it looks like for our will and God's will to be out of alignment? How can we recognize when we're trying to get God to bless our way instead of surrendering to His way?
3. James says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." What is the difference between being confident in what you believe and having a spirit of pride? How can pride show up in the middle of conflict?
4. James gives us this invitation: "Come close to God, and God will come close to you." Why do you think we sometimes pull away from God when we've messed up or are in the middle of conflict? What does it look like practically to draw close to God during those moments?

LEAD (YOURSELF)

This week, when you find yourself frustrated, angry, or in conflict, pause before reacting and ask yourself three questions: "Am I in alignment with God?" "Do I have a spirit of humility?" "Am I drawing close to God?"

Instead of asking God only to change the situation or change the other person, spend time asking God to show you what He wants to change in you.