

BATTLE IN THE TEMPLE

JAMES 4:1-4

aHow did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: If you are a believer, the Holy Spirit lives in you. Therefore, you are a “temple” of the Holy Spirit. However, evil desires, prayerlessness, and worldliness will be the result if you are not letting the Spirit control you. (**I Corinthians 3:16**) See the lesson “The Normal Christian” (**Romans 7:14-8:4**).

RESISTING HUMILITY—Your flesh is the opponent of your new life in Christ. Humility is the strategy of grace (God’s power) to live, by faith, your new life in Christ. The battle with evil desires is not overcome by self-discipline but by submission to the Holy Spirit who lives in you. He gives you His grace to defeat evil desires. (**James 4:1, 2, fn 4:1-3, fn 4:4-6, I Corinthians 6:19, 20, fn 6:19, 20, I Peter 5:5, 6, fn 5:6, Philippians 2:5-11, fn 2:5-11, Romans 7:23-25, fn 7:23-25**) *How could humility help you overcome evil desires?*

STRUGGLING WITH PRAYER—God has given you a helpmate, not a workmate, to dwell in you, His temple. His presence in you becomes evident to you when you let Him control your prayers. (**James 4:2, 3, John 14:13-27, fn 14:15, 16, fn 14:14, fn 14:18, fn 14:26, Hebrews 10:19-23, fn 10:21, 22, Hebrews 4:14-16, fn 4:15, fn 4:16, I John 5:14, 15, fn 5:14, 15**) *How could asking the Lord Jesus to reveal His presence to you help you during your times of prayer?*

CHOOSING THE WRONG FRIEND—“The world denotes the mass of people who are hostile or at least indifferent to the truth and the followers of Christ... The world is dominated by the evil one.” Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, p. 882. By adopting the sinful thinking and sinful ways of the world, you are denying your loyalty to God. To God, you have chosen the world as your friend and are an adulterer. (**James 4:4, fn 4:3, 4, II Corinthians 6:14-17, fn 6:17, I John 2:15, 16, fn 2:15, 16, I John 4:4-6, fn 4:6, John 12:31, 32, fn 12:31, Colossians 1:12-14, fn 1:12-14**) *How do you live in the world but not be a friend of the world?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord? Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?