



## **SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY 2024**

Topic: Lifestyle of Worship “Draw Near to God “

James 4:1-10

Speaker: Ps Paul Curtis

### **Sermon Notes**

- Selfish ambition only delivers discontent (v1-3)
- Because It fights with this “New Spirit of God” within us  
(v4-5)
- So what we need to restore the peace. (v6)
- We do this by drawing near to God (v7-8)
- Then He’ll draw near to us and lift us up out of our  
discontent (v9-10)

## Small Group Questions/Discussions

Why is selfish ambition so damaging to relationships? Why is it that it never brings the contentment we seek? Why is getting what we want such an important worldly desire? How have you learnt to overcome this worldly thinking and how do you find peace when things don't go your way?

James says when we commit to worldly thinking, we are at war with God. Discuss in your group what displeases God about selfish ambition. What are the consequences for us and those around us. What do you think this verse clearly clarifies for us **Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?**

If we are at "war" with God, how do we restore the peace? What sort of response would God seek from us? Why is it impossible to please God without humility? When have you had to be humble and release your desires?

How can we cultivate our relationship with God through faith and obedience? Why is this important? What are we trusting God for, rather than worldly wisdom? There is no such thing as instant, effortless sanctification, it takes effort and focus and discipline. How is God transforming you? What has He taught you?

James says if we grieve, mourn and wail, God will lift us up. What do you think he means by this? What will life look like when God "lifts us up" James encourages us to purify our hearts. Why is God's grace key in this process? Share what it means for you to be close to God. What happens to that selfish ambition that wants to take over?