

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE	WHEN FAITH FIGHTS ITSELF
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SERIES	REAL FAITH COSTS
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DATE	8/23/2026
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KEY SCRIPTURE	James 3:13-4:10
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SYNOPSIS	What if the fight you're having with someone else already happened inside you first?
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HIGHLIGHTS	
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BIG IDEA

Last week was about what your mouth reveals. This week is about where the fight actually starts. The war outside is round two. Round one already happened inside you.

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?" (James 4:1)

Notes:

SELFISH AMBITION WEARS A DISGUISE

It never sounds like selfish ambition — it sounds like honesty, or just being realistic. Sounds like wisdom. Works like poison.

"Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic." (James 3:15)

Notes:

PURITY MAKES PEACE

Real peace doesn't come from smoothing things over. It comes from being clean on the inside. What's inside eventually finds its way out

"You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight." (James 4:2)

Notes:

YOU CAN'T LOVE GOD AND THE WORLD

This isn't about having fun — it's about where your heart actually lives. Friendship with the world is a loyalty problem, not a hobby problem.

"Friendship with the world means enmity against God." (James 4:4)

Notes:



PRIDE BLOCKS GRACE. HUMILITY RECEIVES IT.

Nobody trips and lands in humility. You have to choose it.

Pride's the hand held up saying "I've got this." Grace is the hand held open.

"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." (James 4:6)

Notes:

HERE'S HOW THE WAR ACTUALLY ENDS

The war doesn't end because you got stronger. It ends because you stop fighting on both sides.

Submit. Resist. Draw near. Humble yourself.

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." (James 4:10)

Notes:

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Where's the fight you're having with someone else actually starting inside you?

Stop fighting God, and let the war inside finally end.

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." (Psalm 139:23)

Notes:
