

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for January 15-16, 2000**

**"Friendship with the World"**

**Dale Whitehead**

**James 4:1-6**

We can know if we have become a friend of the world if our various relationships are characterized by turmoil (James 4:1).

We can know if we have become a friend of the world if we find ourselves in conflict with ourselves (James 4:1-4).

James identifies for us three causes of internal conflict.

The first cause is uncontrolled desire (James 4:1).

The second cause is unfulfilled desire (James 4:2).

The third cause is selfish desire (James 4:2-3).

Why would professing believers not ask for what they do not have?

They believe in their personal sufficiency.

The more we come to the Lord in prayer the happier He is with us (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

The Lord wants us to continually come to Him in prayer. Not only as an expression of our worship but also as an expression of our need (Hebrews 4:16).

Before I look to myself or others to meet my needs I must humbly turn to the Lord. I am not saying that we must not exercise personal responsibility when we are faced with various challenges in our lives but exercising personal responsibility should not preempt or even precede humbly bringing our need before the Lord in prayer and acknowledging that we need his help (Hosea 7:8-12).

They do not believe in the power of prayer.

God will always answer biblical prayer. He won't just answer it some of the time, but all of the time (Matthew 7:7-8).

It really boils down to this: Either prayer works or it doesn't! Either God is telling us the truth or He isn't! The world for the most part does not believe in prayer. They believe in themselves. This is the reason why professing Christians who have become contaminated by the world do not pray.