Text: James 4:4-10 Intimacy with God Topic:

Series: None

## **Focal Point Radio Ministries**

October 30 & 31, 2004 Message # 04-32 Pastor Mike



## **Scoot Over**

Astonishing Promises From a Faithful God

|    |         |            | James 4:4-10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----|---------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | Move    | (v.8a)     | <sup>4</sup> You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? <sup>6</sup> But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. |
|    | He will |            | he will come near to you.<br>Wash your hands, you                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|    | He will | (vv.8b-10) | sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (NV)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|    |         |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3. | Fight   |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|    | He will | (vv.4-7)   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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## Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

- 1. Read **Hebrews 6:16-18**. Write out a brief prayer that expresses your thanksgiving that God is perfectly faithful and always reliable when it comes to keeping his promises.
- 2. James 4 describes the health of our relationship with God in terms of distance (i.e., nearness to God). How "close" to God would you say you have been lately? Why?

At what point in your Christian life were you "closer" to God than you are now? What were some of the blessings of walking that closely and intimately with God?

3. Read Revelation 2:4-5. What are some of the other "loves" of your life that attempt to displace your "first" or primary love for God?

Why do those idols make such miserable gods?

4. Describe an instance in your life when you demonstrated a real, honest and genuine repentance toward a particular behavior, attitude or priority.

Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-11. How would the characteristics of repentance listed in this passage look if they were applied to an area of your life that is in need of repentance?

5. What will you do this week to guard yourself from the lure of things that put distance between you and your God?

Read through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule. Sunday Ezk.5-6 & 1Tim.6 Monday Ezk.7-8 & 2Tim.1 Tuesday Ezk.9-10 & 2Tim.2 Wednesday Ezk.11-12 & 2Tim.3 Thursday Ezk. 13-14 & 2Tim. 4 Friday Ezk.15-16 & Titus Saturday Ezk.17-18 & Phile.

Here are some resources which may help you understand and apply the truths presented in this week's sermon.

The Bible Promise Book: New International Version. Barbour Publishing, 1997. (176 pp)

Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness.* NavPress, 1996. (160 pp)

Carson, D. A. A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers. Baker Books, 1992. (232 pp)

Helm, Paul, et al. The Trustworthiness of God: Perspectives on the Nature of Scripture. Eerdmans, 2002. (303 pp)

Lockyer, Herbert. *All the Promises of the Bible.* Zondervan, 1962. (351 pp)
Miller, C. Richard. *Repentance and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Man.* Christian Literature Crusade, 1975. (127 pp)

Peterson, Eugene. Promises, Promises, NavPress, 2003. (128 pp)

Roberts, Richard Owen. Repentance: The First Word of the Gospel. Crossway Books, 2002. (368 pp)

Spurgeon, C.H. According to Promise: God's Promises to Every Christian. Whitaker House, 1995. (189 pp)

Watson, Thomas. The Doctrine of Repentance. Banner of Truth, 1987. (122 pp)