

The Power of Pleasure - James 4:1-17

We are designed to experience pleasure.

It is a blessing of being near God – Distraction Detours

Selfish desires cause us to overindulge turning a blessing into a curse

The Double Minded Person: Doubting God

Narcissus: Fell in love with himself and it killed him

Adam and Eve loved themselves it kill them

Cain's love of self killed his brother and his future

Peter's struggle with Godly wisdom was a consistent hurdle

Matthew 16:13-17; 21-23 From God's will to self-will

Our desires set a course: toward and away from

The Prince of this world's distortions: Stirs up and tears down

Screwtape: slowly drag them away for the light

2 Tim 3:4 Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

Screwtape: get him to be a critic not a pupil

At every step Satan is in the way. Individualism is his greatest ally

When we don't resist the Devil we join him in undoing what God is trying to do.

You claim to be God's people but you have a long running affair with the world. The world leans toward arrogance (my desires come first)

God leans toward humility

Internal turmoil destroys relationships with others, God and self

Prayers a said with not effect because they are filled with self interest

This friendship with the world James calls adultery

Imperatives: Submit yourself to God, Resist the Devil, Grieve,

Mourn, Wail Humble yourself and God will lift you up.

James calls them to turn: reorient the direction of their lives

Jesus' prayers are other Godly wisdom leans toward humility

Screwtape: Lose yourself to find yourself

Attend to eternity and the present

A neighbor to others and a neighbor to themselves

Earthly wisdom seeks self

Godly wisdom combines self and other-Reoriented in Jesus

God desires to bring order to chaos. Peace, Tame