

Problem:

Heb 12:4 - we are at war with ourselves

Romans 7:14-25 - and the answer is not trying harder

CPT:**Two Natures**

James 4:1 ¶ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that **your passions are at war within you?**

James 4:2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on **your passions.**

(1) context - James 3:13-18

(2) murder = selfish desire - (joseph and his brothers) -> Christ on the cross - Matt 27:17-18 envy

(3) your passions - two natures

the battle between the old self and the new self - Eph 4:17-24

-> we fight and quarrel because we are sinners. We still have the old nature, it never goes away. our fights etc are the result of listening to this old nature.

Two Masters

James 4:4 **You adulterous people!** Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? *(Gen 2:7 -spirit - breath)*

James 4:6 **But he gives more grace.** Therefore it says, "God opposes **the proud**, but gives **grace to the humble.**"

((4)friendship with the world - Matt 6:24; 2 Tim 3:4; 1 jn 2:15-17)

(5) God is jealous for His people - Exodus 20:1-5; 34:11-17

(6) problem was pride and spiritual idolatry - Jer 2:20-28; 13:25-27

(6) but He gives more grace

Hosea 1:1-11 - adulterous people

2:13-23- the point of the analogy

3:1-3 - the picture of exaltation from humility

->we have two masters - our pride and listening to our old nature is idolatry. God made us for Him and is jealous of our allegiance to idols. He has given us a new nature and He wants us to choose Him. It is spiritual adultery when we don't but He gives more grace as w humble ourselves

How to Win the War

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

James 4:10 **Humble yourselves before the Lord**, and he will exalt you.

implication: *lk 11:24-26 - the answer is not self improvement- rom 6:1-5 - but death*

Application:

Rom 6:6-10 -know it)

Rom 6:11- reckon to your life - calculate it by faith like math

Action:

*yield to Him as your new master - Rom 6:12-19
walk in the spirit -follow his desires - Gal 5:16-18,
and crucify your own Gal 5:19-24; (2:20)*

->self improvement is not the answer. we must submit to our new master knowing we have died to sin IN christ and we must stand against the devil's temptations to our flesh. We must confess and draw near constantly to the throne of grace living in repentance constantly. All of this sums up the injunction to humble yourself. It is not about trying harder but about dying to self. letting the desires of the flesh starve and submitting to the new desires of the Spirit within.

Main Idea:

The war within is not won through self improvement. It is won through death.

Implication:

*lk 11:24-26 - the answer is not self improvement
rom 6:1-5 - but death*

“Give me all of you!!! I don’t want so much of your time, so much of your talents and money, and so much of your work. I want YOU!!! ALL OF YOU!! I have not come to torment or frustrate the natural man or woman, but to KILL IT! No half measures will do. I don’t want to only prune a branch here and a branch there; rather I want the whole tree out! Hand it over to me, the whole outfit, all of your desires, all of your wants and wishes and dreams. Turn them ALL over to me, give yourself to me and I will make of you a new self---in my image. Give me yourself and in exchange I will give you Myself. My will, shall become your will. My heart, shall become your heart.” — C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Application:

know it -Rom 6:6-10

“Every unclean thought or glance would be adultery if it could; every covetous desire would be oppression, every thought of unbelief would be atheism, might it grow to its head”

“This is your old way and course; I know what you aim at”—and so to be always in readiness is a good part of our warfare.” -John Owen-John Owen

consider it- Rom 6:11

The war within is not won through self improvement. It is won through death.

Action:

Die to self

submit to Him as your new master each day, each moment - Rom 6:12-19
walk in the spirit -follow his desires - Gal 5:16-18,
and crucify your own Gal 5:19-24; 2:20

here are some articles to help you go deeper in application:

regarding dying to self:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/dying-to-self.html>

and

<http://www.thetransformedsoul.com/additional-studies/spiritual-life-studies/dying-to-self>

regarding spiritual idolatry:

http://www.gracegems.org/25/spiritual_idolatry.htm

