

James 4:1-10

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Lord Jesus, we praise You and thank You for Your gifts of forgiveness, cleansing from sin, and eternal life given to us through Your sacrificial death on Calvary's cross. When we ponder the undeserved results of our faith in You, we love You more each day. We know that our lives were changed by Your grace and the truth of Your Word as the Holy Spirit worked within us. But Lord, we confess that we still find ourselves engaged in harmful and hurtful conflicts and disputes that come from cravings and passions at war within us. Please help us live in peace with You, within ourselves and with others. We pray that You would put a guard on our tongues, so we will cease saying things that displease You and hurt others and ourselves. Please teach us to pray rightly so we do not continually ask You to fulfill our selfish desires. Please give us the courage to turn from following "this world" and from seeking friendship with "this world," knowing that "this world" hates You and when we seek the pleasures of "this world" we are making ourselves Your enemies. Lord Jesus, we need more grace, and we humble ourselves before You and thank You for giving us more grace. Without Your grace we would be lost now and forever; we would make others and ourselves miserable. Lord, we truly need You! Lord, please give us the courage and power to resist the devil and fight the good fight of faith. We thank You for the promise that when we resist the devil, it will flee from us. Oh please, help us resist the devil and not succumb to temptations. Oh Lord, we do grieve over our sins and how much we have hurt and dishonored You. Please help us glorify You in the future in ways that will draw others to faith in You. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Please Note: I first learned about "Praying Through the Bible" from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own "Prayer Through the Bible" using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [*How God Teaches Us to Pray: Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer*](#), Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.