



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Praying Through James 4:1-10

Lord Jesus, we praise and thank You for Your gifts of forgiveness, cleansing from sin, and eternal life given to us through Your sacrificial death on the cross. When we ponder the results of our faith in You, we love You more each day. We know 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, disputes that come from cravings and passions at war within us. Help us live in peace with You, ourselves, and with others. Please put a guard on our tongues so we 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 seeking friendship with “this world.” We know “this world” hates You and when we seek the pleasures of “this world” we make ourselves Your enemies. Lord Jesus, we need more grace. We humble ourselves before You and thank You for giving us more grace. Without Your grace we would be lost forever and make others and ourselves miserable now. 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 its 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 *Verse-by-verse Scripture Handout* 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 *Verse-by-verse Scripture Handout* 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.

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Contact: P.O. Box 1052, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083 and lgp@theiblf.com.