



The War Within

James 4: 1-3

Bobby Harrington

August 2nd, 2026

1. What has been the best part of your summer and what do you most look forward to as we move toward the fall? Explain.
2. Does everyone understand the basics presented about the new FOUNDATIONS class on Sunday mornings in the second service for our 6 through 12 graders and the opportunity for parents to get weekly coaching from the "Family Conversations Podcast on Real Life Theology"? How can we help our parents and students to be fully engaged?
3. Read and re-read James 4:1-3 two times. What stands out to you from the sermon and these verses and why?
4. If we're being honest, we can ALL admit that we have struggle like the ones James is describing. Where do you currently notice "desires that battle within you" creating tension, frustration, or conflict in your relationships or daily life?
5. What do you think was the underlying cause when unmet desires led you to react with irritation, argument, or withdrawal?
6. James says we "do not have because we do not ask God." In what area of your life do you think, when you are transparent, you are tempted to be striving, scheming, or stressing instead of simply bringing the need to God in prayer?
7. Bobby gave three solutions that help us to acknowledge and repent of our sinful desires: 1) Authentic engagement with scripture, 2) Authentic engagement seeking the Spirit's illumination, 3) Transparent discipling relationships (like Dave Stovall described) from Celebrate Recovery. Which solution do you most need at this point in your life and why?
8. When you do pray about something you want, how often do you later realize your motives were mixed—wanting it more for personal comfort, status, or pleasure than for God's purposes? What can you do (or what have you done) to ensure your motives are aligned with God's purposes?
9. TAKE ACTION: This coming week, how can we specifically and practically encourage each other to pray for clarity so that we will consciously surrender our desires to God?

Reminders:

- **DK Teachers needed:** Do you have a heart for children and ministry? We are in need of DK Teachers and Crew, would love for you to serve on Sunday mornings as a **classroom teacher!** If this interests you, please email Shealey Sims at shealeys@harpethcc.com for more information! Training and Info meeting on Sunday, August 23rd in Student Center.

- **Safety Team:** We are looking for a few additional men and women who have a heart to serve on our safety team ministry! Team members participate in ongoing training, work closely together, and are committed to being prepared to respond wisely- should the need ever arise. Some members are licensed concealed carry holders, while others serve in non-firearm support roles. If you have a servant's heart, remain calm under pressure, and feel called to help protect our church family, we would love to talk with you. Contact Nancy List (nanlist429@gmail.com) for more information.
- **Back to School Prayer and Potluck:** Join us **Sunday, August 16th at 5:30pm** for our annual Back to School Prayer & Potluck where we gather to pray over our students, teachers, and families for the upcoming school year! HCC will provide chicken and desserts, so please bring a large family side dish to share. Can't wait to see you there!
- **Check Us Out:** Mark your calendars for our upcoming Check Us Out class! Check Us Out is a two-part class where you will hear more about what we believe and care about here at Harpeth, as well as a pathway to membership. Classes take place during the 9:00am service, so feel free to check your kids into DiscipleSHIP Kids and head on over. Coffee and bagels will be provided! Register by scanning the QR code below.



Part 1 - Sunday, August 16th at 9:00am

Part 2 - Sunday, August 23rd at 9:00am