

**THE WEEK OF
December 14th, 2009**



**Jesus Vs. Deadly Desires
Part 3
James 4:1-3**

“Where do wars and fights come from among you?
Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?”

James 4:1

Apple has a great marketing campaign for their iPhone with the catch-phrase of “there’s an App for that.” The point is that whatever you desire to do with the phone, someone has developed the appropriate downloadable program to meet the desire. It doesn’t change the original purpose of the phone from being a phone, it just means that you can do other things with it. However, if one of these Apps doesn’t work, the typical answer from tech support is going to be something like, “well the phone was designed to be a phone, and we don’t support third-party apps.”

God has created us for His purposes, not ours. We have been made to worship and desire Him. However, He has given us the free will to choose to worship Him or to worship something else. We can’t do both. It doesn’t work when we try to desire and worship Him on one or two days of the week and then give in to our other desires the rest of the week.

Take spiritual inventory this week. Be honest with yourself, and identify what your objects of desire are. Find the parts of your life that have not been handed fully over to God. Ask your Bible Café brothers to help you in surrendering. It’s not easy. Surrendering any part of your life will require change, sometimes BIG change, but it is always worth it. I don’t know a single Christian who has told me that removing an object of desire from his life was something he regretted. In fact, the more common response is that he wished he had done it sooner.

So find that thing which gets in the way of your desire towards God and face it head-on. Remember that you’re not alone, and that according to Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day *example:*
If it’s the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)

Deadly Desires, the temptations that feed on our weaknesses

Mon: Identify Objects of Desire: “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss” James 4:1-3

Tue: Get rid of distractions: “let us lay aside every weight” Hebrews 12:1-2

Wed: Remember you’re not alone!: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Thu: Seek Him as treasure: “then you will understand the fear of the Lord” Proverbs 2:4-5

Fri: Rely on God for your strength: Philippians 4:13

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. What is your object of desire?

2. How much time and energy do you focus on your object of desire? How could that time be better used for what God want you to do?

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):