

HOW FIGHTS START AND STOP

James 4:1–10

Why do we quarrel so much with each other? What's with all the bickering and in-fighting? When disagreements happen, why do we continue the conflict instead of seeking a solution? Why are we so much better at arguing and finding fault rather than reconciling? How come we can't just get along? Once again, James puts his finger on the issue. He helps us understand the reason fights start as well as how they can be stopped. The best part of his counsel is that he doesn't make it complicated or philosophical. As per his normal style, he cuts to the chase, says it straight, and leaves the rest with us to follow through. But a warning is in order—it won't be easy. Old habits are hard to break, especially those we enjoy, even though we know, deep in our hearts, they are not good for us.

I. Initial Questions (v. 1a)

- Who's fighting?

- What are the conflicts?

II. Diagnosis of the Problem (vv. 1b–4)

Cause (sources)

Effect (results)

III. Prescription for the Solution (vv. 5–6)

IV. Practical Advice (vv. 7–10)