

## Day 6

# Fights and Quarrels

James 3:13–4:3

*You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. James 4:2*

Tina had her driver's license for about six months. One afternoon she confronted her dad about getting her a car. "Dad, all my classmates have a car. Why can't I have one?" Her father gave several reasons why he did not think she needed a car at this time. They lived close to the school, finances were tight, and her experience with driving was limited. Tina's reaction was filled with anger and resentment.

For several days, Tina attempted to punish her parents. She sulked, withdrew to her room, and engaged in little conversation.

Frequently we demonstrate similar attitudes and behaviors when we don't get our way. We become critical when our spouse disappoints us. We expect a promotion and resent the employer when it doesn't come. Time and again our battles within us leave us separated, disengaged, or isolated from our relationships.

We are sinners who sin daily. God takes our quarrels, our personal battles, and lays them on his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest battle God had with us was over our sinful condition and our sins. Jesus Christ went to the cross to suffer and to die for our selfish desires and quarrels so that we could always be in relationship with him as his redeemed, forgiven children.

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*Thank you, Lord, for forgiving me when I quarrel and become selfish in my desires. Open my eyes to see that my demands are self-serving rather than serving you and glorifying you. Grant me the power of your Holy Spirit to overcome sinful desires. In your holy name, O Lord, I pray. Amen.*

*Adapted from Forgiven to Forgive - 6 Weeks of Daily Devotions  
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**Write or type your answers.** Writing your answers helps you to meditate more deeply on the question, organize your thoughts, and provide a visible way for you to review and reflect on how this devotion applies to your specific situation.

1. Considering a current or recent conflict, what underlying desires were driving you to take your position and respond to the conflict in the ways that you did?
2. If you were able to get what you wanted in the conflict, whose desires were served most of all – your own, the other person's, or God's?
3. If you were unable to get everything you wanted, how did you respond (identify your thoughts, words, and actions)? Which of your reactions were sinful?
4. Using the prayer from the devotion, include a confession for your sinful desires. Note that God's forgiveness covers the desires that cause our fights and quarrels.