



/add-verbs/

Add Verbs questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

In the Bible, “Christian” is a noun, and nouns need verbs. To be authentically Christian you must ADD VERBS to your faith. Let’s search for verbs to add to our faith, starting in the book of James.

1 James chapter 4 provides an explanation for why we have so many “*disturbances of the peace*” and a suggestion for how we can give “*peace a chance*.” James says fighting is present because a very important verb is absent. **Read James 4:1-2.** What does James say is the root cause of fights and quarrels between people? In what ways have you noticed this to be true?

2 We justify our fights by putting the blame “*out there*,” but James says the war without always originates from the “*war within*.” What does James mean when he says our “*desires battle within us*”? Share some examples of this battle.

3 WE MUST *commit to submit*. We fight because we want most what we want most. “*Have it your way*” works with burgers, not with life. Jesus modeled a different way (the three temptations were all about getting what he wanted) but he resisted this temptation all his life by humbling himself and submitting to God. James calls us to do the same. **Read James 4:7a and 10a (compare with 1 Peter 5:5-6).** What does it mean to “*submit yourselves to God*” and why is it our responsibility for adding this verb?

4 SUBMIT... by standing against the real enemy. **Read James 4:7b.** A lot of fights would stop if we would focus instead on the true enemy (see Ephesians 6:11-12). James

is helping us see that spiritual warfare is ultimately a stand against Satan to start a war within us. How does Satan aim to start a war within us? What are some practical ways we can resist the devil?

5 SUBMIT... by staying close to God. **Read James 4:8a.** Deeper intimacy with God is not something you are going to drift into. God never refuses a sincere invitation, so what are you doing to welcome deeper fellowship with Him? Share 2-3 practical things you do on a regular basis to “*come near to God*.”

6 SUBMIT... by starting to clean our hearts. **Read James 4:8b-9.** James closes with some really strong verbs: wash, purify, grieve, change. What does this tell us about the nature of true repentance, both its actions and attitudes? How does your repentance usually compare to this description?

7 WE TRUST the gift of lift. “*Submitting*” is a hard verb to add because “*admitting*” is a hard thing to do. But there is good news: God gives grace to the humble. **Read James 4:10.** What do you think James means when he writes that God “*will lift you up*”? In what ways has God lifted you up when you have come to him in total surrender?