

James 4:1-3 NLT

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? [2] You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. [3] And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong — you want only what will give you pleasure.

The source of wars, arguments and fights among Christians is always the same. There are some roots of self-centred needs and carnality, an internal war within the believer regarding the desires of the flesh. No two believers who are both walking in the Spirit of God can live with wars and fights among themselves.

We are instructed to be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry. Being able to be aware of our anxious thoughts, frustrations, not getting our way or opinion heard, is important to recognise. We should really listen to others without judgement first, before speaking our opinions. Suspend your judgement and find out the facts. Setting boundaries and respecting others' feelings is important. Our first port of call should be to talk to God - let's ask Him for wisdom and follow His wisdom and His ways which are revealed in His word.

You can test the wisdom and ways of God because you will be able to see the fruit within yourself - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control... There is no law against such things.

Pray: Lord, lead me in your ways. I lift up every situation I'm facing right now and I submit my life, my thoughts and behaviours, to you. Help me to be more like you and lead me in your ways and paths of righteousness. I declare you are my shepherd, I will lack nothing and goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.

Link to all devotionals: [iccbrisbane.org/journaling](http://iccbrisbane.org/journaling)