Signs of Arrogance

Our previous study in James 4:1-10 concluded with a wonderful and climatic promise: "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up." As we read on in James' epistle it would appear that he is shifting back to his admonitions relating to specific forms of behavior. Yet, if we read closely—we see that James follows his call for humility with a warning against several sins of arrogance—against attitudes that contradict humility.

Prepare Your Heart: Bow before God and let your heart drink in the truths of His Holy Word.

Rea	d Jam a.	es 4:11-17 from both the NIV and NASB if possible. Observe 4:11-12 more closely. What is the instrument for expressing pride and arrogance in 4:11a?
	b.	What is significant about the repetitive use of "brother," "brethren" and "one another" in verse 11?
	c.	What are we really doing when we play judge in our relationships with others (4:11b)?
	d.	Why could this be considered the ultimate expression of pride and arrogance (4:12)?
	e.	What did the law command regarding our relationship with others? See Leviticus

- 19:18; Romans 13:8-10 and James 2:8.
- 2. Ponder the *practical wisdom* in the phrase: "Do not speak against one another, brethren." (NASB) Write your contemplations below.

A Closer Look

The Greek verb *katalaleo* (translated "slander" in the NIV) carries a broader meaning that can refer to any form of evil speaking against a person. Below are some of the ways in which we see pride and arrogance displayed.

pride 3.	e and arrogance displayed. Look up the definition of each word in a dictionary. Record your findings and insights. Judge
	Judge
	Gossip
	Slander
4.	Who are we acting like when we speak against fellow believers in Christ (Revelation 12:10)?
5.	Is there a difference between being judgmental and identifying sinful behavior? Explain. Consider Matthew 18:15-16; Galatians 2:11 and John 7:24.
and '	es' audience would have been familiar with the denouncements of slander in their Scriptures with the teachings of Jesus. The sin of slandering God or man was mentioned more in the Old ament than any other sin. Read and reflect on Leviticus 19:16-17; Psalm 15:1-5; 101:5; Proverbs 6:16-19; 11:9 and 18:8. From the New Testament turn to Matthew 15:19-20a. a. How do these passages broaden your perspective of the meaning of slander?
	b. How to they enhance your perception of God?

7.	relati	d a few minutes meditating on James 4:11-12 and Ephesians 4:1-3. Consider the ionships in your life where these truths could be applied. What action is God leading to take this week?
		tinues his relentless warning by pointing to another sign of pride and arrogance, using grabbing rhetoric. Thoughtfully read and reread James 4:13-17. What does the person in 4:13 presume about his or her life? (Notice the involvement of speech.)
	b.	Observe the contrast in attitude in James 4:13 and 4:15. What attitudes toward God are displayed in each case?
	t our l How	f thinking described in James 4:13 also fails to take into account the fundamental facts human existence. Review James 4:14—taking time to contemplate each phrase. often do you think of your life in these terms? Do you see areas in your thinking that of align with God's Word? Comment as you feel led.
10.	a.	What are some examples of life decisions we make without including God in the process?
	b.	When is it not necessary to do so? When is it essential?

Pause and Reflect: James says our plans should be wrapped in prayers that seek God's will (4:15). Making plans for the future without considering that our future is in God's hands—that every breath we draw is a gift from Him, is arrogance. And so...pull out your calendar and look at what you planned for the next few weeks. Take time to pray through each item. Ask God if there are items he wants you to add or take off your schedule. Humbly commit your future plans to the Lord.

11.	a.	In contrast to verse 15, note what James' readers are doing instead (4:16). (The NASB
		provides a more accurate rendering of the Greek than the NIV in this instance.)

b. Why is this way of thinking "evil?"

James sums up his teaching on pride and arrogance with a solemn warning. Prayerfully **read** James 4:17. Although this verse could be applied to any number of situations, James intends this statement be applied to the present context.

12. Explain why knowing what should be done obligates a person to do it. Also consult Luke 12:47-48.

13. What warning, command or truth from James 4:11-17 most resonated with you? How do you need to grow in this area? Write down one or two changes you would like to make in your thoughts or actions, through God's grace.

James' epistle is not casual reading—it is intense and intensely practical! As we step back from this passage ... we can also see a wonderful freedom in the truths James is teaching his readers. When we look into the face of our Heavenly Father and see His true character—we can humbly lay down the burden of having to know everything, of having to control everything and everyone. God alone has the first and last word in all things. And the name of that Word is Jesus Christ.