



Sermon Notes
Sermon Title: You've Got Me Going In Circles

Sermon Foundational Scripture: James 4:1–3 (NIV) — **1** What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? **2** You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. **3** When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Statements:

- ⇒ Winning in the realm you can see requires working in the realm you can't.
- ⇒ "Lord of the universe, I swear by your great name that I will not move from this circle until you show compassion on your children and send rain."
- ⇒ The Culture's way is to CRASH OUT during the drought.
- ⇒ The Church's way is to CHECK OUT during the drought.
- ⇒ The King's way is CRY OUT during the drought.

Supporting Scriptures:

James 1:1 (NIV) — **1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

Genesis 45:4–7 (NIV) — **4** Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! **5** And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. **6** For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. **7** But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

James 4:1–2 (NIV) — **1** What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? **2** You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

James 5:13–18 (NIV) — **13** Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. **14** Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. **16** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **17** Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. **18** Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

1 Kings 18:42–45 (NIV) — **42** So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. **43** “Go and look toward the sea,” he told his servant. And he went up and looked. “There is nothing there,” he said. Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.” **44** The seventh time the servant reported, “A cloud as small as a man’s hand is rising from the sea.” So Elijah said, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.’ ” **45** Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel.

Isaiah 62:6–7 (NIV) — **6** I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, **7** and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

Four Aspects of Third Way Prayer:

1. The Purpose of Prayer

2. The Pollution of Prayer

- Ungodly motives: Internal intentions that seek personal benefit, validation, or control at the expense of God’s will and others’ well-being.
- Unbridled ambition: A relentless drive for success, status, or achievement that is not surrendered to God’s timing, methods, or boundaries.
- Unforgiveness in my heart: The internal refusal to release someone from the debt of what they did, resulting in ongoing resentment, bitterness, or emotional distance.

3. The Power of Prayer

4. The Persistence of Prayer