



Pursuing Peace

THE REDEMPTION OF CONFLICT

Avoid Peace Breaking

JAMES 4:1-10

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¹What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

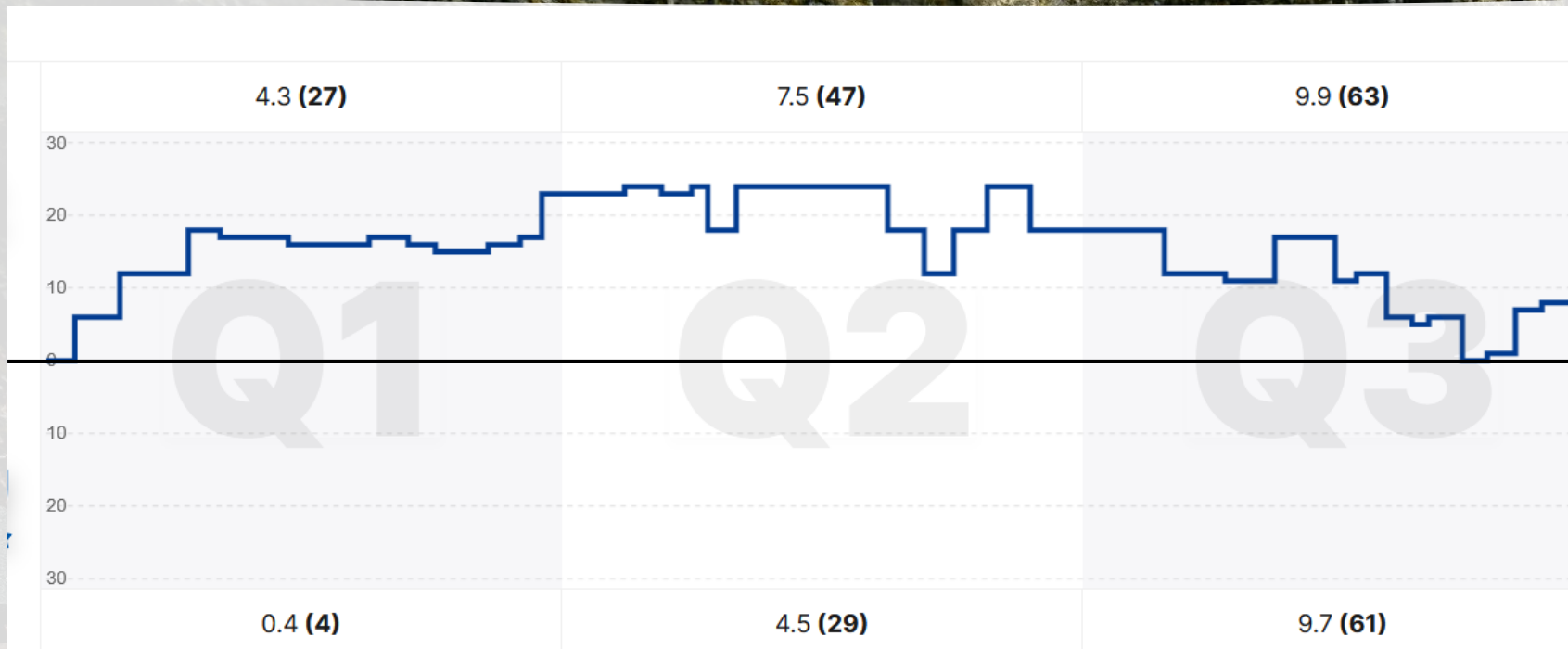
²You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

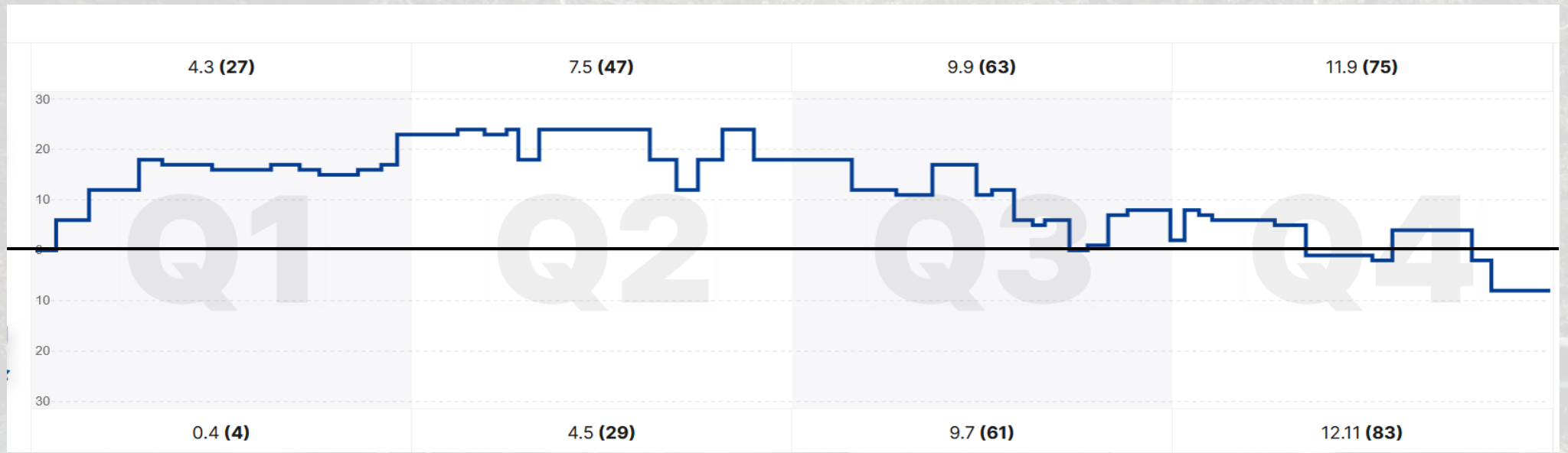
³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

- **⁴You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.**
- **⁵Or do you think Scripture says without reason that He jealously longs for the spirit He has caused to dwell in us?
⁶But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:**
- **“God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.”**

- **⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.**









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We fail to see our own sin.

A photograph of a road accident scene. A white car is overturned on its side in the distance. The road is paved with asphalt and has a yellow double line down the center. There is a metal guardrail on the right side of the road. The background is a dense forest of trees. A semi-transparent white box with a thin black border is overlaid on the image, containing the text "We shift the blame to others." in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

We shift the blame to others.

A photograph of a road accident scene. A white car is overturned on its side on a paved road. The road has a yellow center line and a metal guardrail on the right side. The background is a dense forest with green trees. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting it might be early morning or late afternoon. A semi-transparent white box with a thin black border is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "We assign hidden motives." in a dark, sans-serif font.

We assign hidden motives.



We make assumptions.



We read past hurts into every situation.

A photograph of a paved road winding through a dense forest. A stone wall runs along the left side of the road, and a metal guardrail is on the right. The road surface is dark asphalt with a yellow center line. The background is filled with tall trees and green foliage. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "We engage in stone-walling." in a dark, sans-serif font.

We engage in stone-walling.

A photograph of a road accident scene. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "We exaggerate the offence." The background shows a road with a yellow center line, a guardrail on the right, and a dense forest of trees. Debris is scattered on the road surface.

We exaggerate the offence.



We lack empathy for the other side.



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Humility is the path to resolving conflict.

Humility will rightly value God above self and therefore the pull of the world system will lose its lustre.

Humility will also cause us to pursue godliness in the midst of conflict.

It will help us confess our sin before men and God and will also assist us as we strive to continue pleasing God in the midst of inevitable human conflict.

Mike Leake

A photograph of a paved road winding through a dense forest. The road has a yellow center line and a metal guardrail on the right side. The background is filled with tall trees and green foliage. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text.

We fail to see our own sin.

Take time to examine ourselves; especially our motives and our attitude to the other person(s).

A photograph of a road with a yellow center line and a guardrail, surrounded by trees. The road is paved and has some debris on it. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

We shift the blame to others.

Acknowledge the part we contributed to the conflict
without offering excuses.

Ask for forgiveness for the part we played.



We assign hidden motives.

Appeal to and assume the best
in the other party.

A photograph of a road with a yellow center line and a guardrail, surrounded by trees. The road is paved and has some debris on it. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

We make assumptions.

Identify the feelings of the other person and seek clarity of their intentions.

A photograph of a road with a yellow center line and a guardrail, surrounded by trees. The road is paved and has some debris on it. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

We read past hurts into every situation.

Address the central / core issue, without being drawn into side issues or what has been addressed previously.



We engage in stone-walling.

Acknowledge the concern or grievance that
has been raised.

A photograph of a road with a yellow center line and a guardrail, surrounded by trees. The road is paved and has some debris on it. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

We exaggerate the offence.

Be careful to assess the seriousness of the offence. Consider whether the offence itself may have been an over reaction or even a call for help.

We lack empathy for the other side.

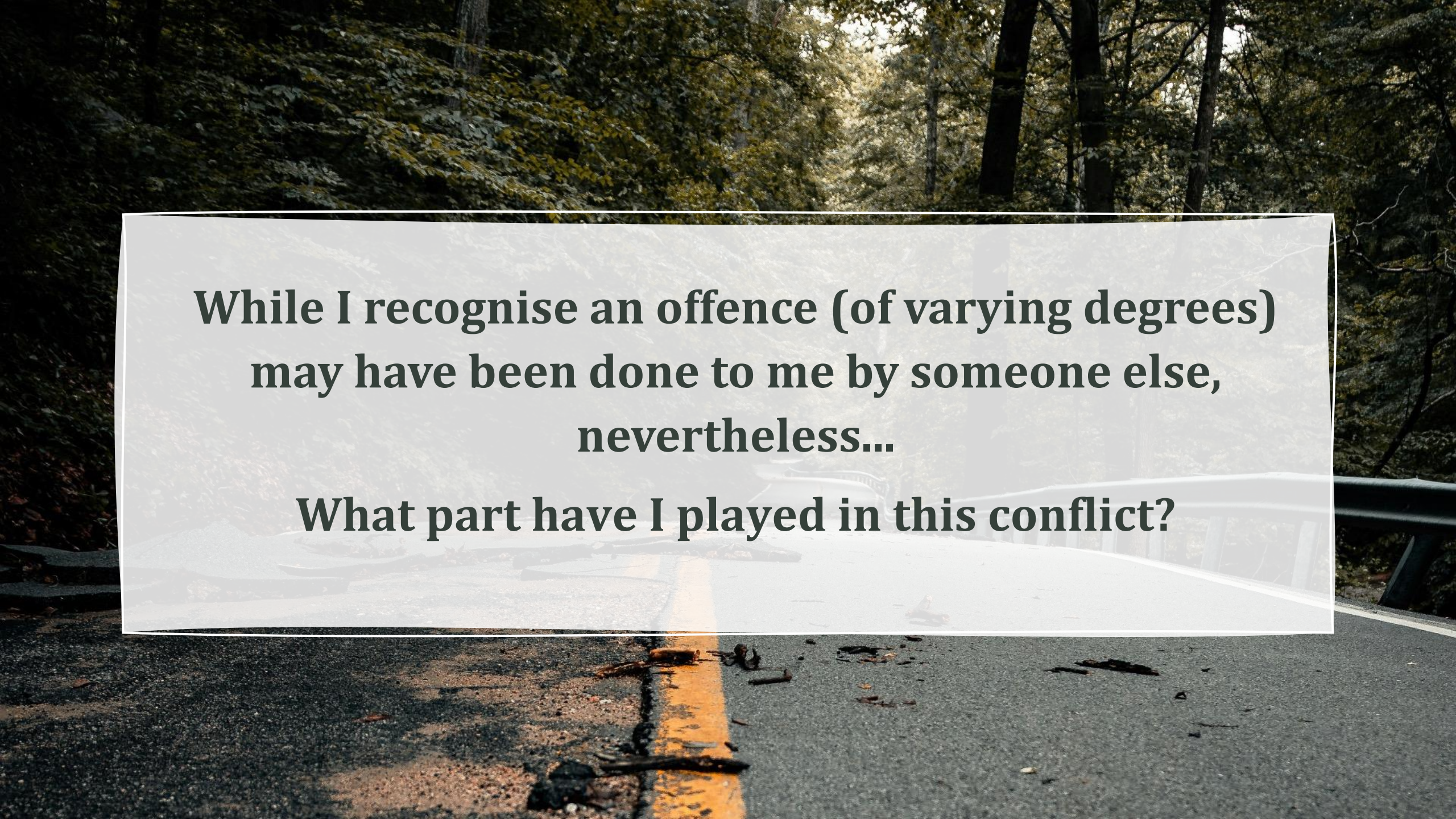
Listen carefully to the other side and try to see the issue from their perspective. Ask them to affirm if your understanding of their position is correct or not;

e.g. “I hear you saying that _____.”



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**While I recognise an offence (of varying degrees)
may have been done to me by someone else,
nevertheless...**

What part have I played in this conflict?

A photograph of a paved road winding through a dense forest. The road has a yellow center line and a metal guardrail on the right side. The scene is partially obscured by a semi-transparent white rectangular box with a thin black border. Inside this box, the text "What did I desire but didn't get?" is written in a bold, black, serif font.

What did I desire but didn't get?

A photograph of a paved road winding through a dense forest. The road has a yellow center line and a metal guardrail on the right side. The scene is slightly hazy, and a semi-transparent white text box is overlaid in the center. The text inside the box asks two questions in a bold, black, serif font.

What did I desire but didn't get?
Was that expectation reasonable?

A photograph of a road with a yellow center line and a guardrail, surrounded by trees. The road is paved and has some debris on it. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

What did I desire but didn't get?
Was that expectation reasonable?
Was it communicated? (v1-2)

A photograph of a paved road with a yellow center line, curving through a dense forest. The road surface is dark asphalt with some debris and a crack. A metal guardrail runs along the right side of the road. The background is filled with tall trees and lush green foliage. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

**Am I looking to God for things, rather than
others?**

A photograph of a paved road winding through a dense forest. The road has a yellow center line and is bordered by a metal guardrail on the right. The trees are tall and thin, with green and some yellowing leaves. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text.

**Am I looking to God for things, rather than to
others?**

Are my motives good for those things? (v2-3)

A photograph of a paved road with a yellow center line, curving through a dense forest. The road surface is dark asphalt with some debris and a crack. A metal guardrail is visible on the right side. The background is filled with green trees and foliage. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text.

**How might I transform my understanding
of conflict I'm presently experiencing? (v7-10)**