

The Book of James

James 4:6-10

What a pleasure it is each week to be able to share with you the Word of God. Today, we're going to continue our study in the book of James, and we're going to start with verse 6 of chapter 4.

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Well, today, we're going to pick up our study in James chapter 4 in verse 6, and I would encourage you to have your Bible open as we study the Word of God. First of all, I'd like for you to notice in verses 6-10, we're seeing how to develop a humble spirit here. Verse 6 says, *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.* God opposes the proud, according to this verse, and God hates pride and He loves humility, according to that first part of that verse where it says, *But he giveth more grace.*

In Proverbs 3:34, it says, *Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.* Luke 14:11 says, *For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

And I believe that, if you look at those verses, James is actually referring to those verses, Proverbs 3:34 and Luke 14:11, as we look at James 4:6. We also see in that verse, when God's enemies humble themselves, His grace abounds. In Romans 5:20, it says, *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.*

Well, then we move to verse 7. It says, *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* He's talking about getting away from that selfish pride. He's talking about loving in humility. Be in love with humility. Be the person that God wants you to be, not thinking of yourself more highly than you should.

We see in these verses here, verses 7-10, the submitting and mourning and humbling of the individual. In verse 7, we read that. The devil will leave you when you are in submission to God, according to the first part of verse 7, and it helps you to oppose the devil.

In Matthew 12:26-28, it says, *And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? ²⁷And if I by Beelzebub... (and this is Christ speaking) ...cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. ²⁸But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*

I would like to point out something to you in verse 7 here. Don't expect the devil to flee unless you do what the verse says to do. It says to submit to God and oppose the devil. Remember, the earlier verses 4-5 speak of

choosing the things of the world instead of being God's friend. We need to choose the things of God instead of the things of this world. Now, once again, we're in this world but we do not have to conform to the sinful lusts and the sinful pride that this old world wants to instill upon on and in us. That's the old flesh wanting us to become more and more like the world when God says we are to become more and more like His Son, Jesus Christ.

James 4:8 says this: *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.* Now, I would have you remember that James is writing to the church here. He's calling these people sinners. Well, do you think they were unsaved? James is not saying that. He's saying that we're all sinners. As long as we're in this flesh, we are sinners. This flesh is no good. This flesh will bring us harm if we give into it. If we continually want to do what the flesh wants to do, we're going to be in trouble. Therefore, we need to be like Jesus. How do you become like Jesus? You ask Him to come into your heart. You ask Him, "Lord, I know I'm a sinner. I know I can't save myself. Please save me so I can become more and more like you."

See, a lot of times we deal with individuals and we tell them that they need to get saved to escape the punishment of Hell, which is true. Once you get saved, you escape that punishment. But more and more we need to be telling people that the benefit of being saved is not only escaping Hell, but it's becoming more and more like Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

God brings joy to the heart when a person comes to that saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. When a person realizes, *Yes, I'm a sinner. I need Jesus as my Savior. I can't save myself. Within me there is no good thing. And therefore I need Jesus Christ to come in and live with me.* If you'll ask Jesus to save you

today, He'll save you. He wants to be your Savior. He wants to be your Guide and He wants to tell you how to live in this sinful world. And as a saved person, remember, you're not above sin. The Bible teaches that, when you think you stand, take heed lest you fall. Pride goeth before destruction, the Bible says. And that's what James is speaking of in this book. He's saying don't let pride overshadow the things of God. Don't let pride get in the way.

In verse 8, it talks again: *Cleanse your hands, ye sinners.* That means that the Christian is to be above reproach. That Christian is to have the testimony that God wants to exhibit to this lost and dying world to be examples to the people of this world so that they can come to Him and receive Jesus as Savior. Stay close to God. How do you stay close to God according to verse 8? You draw nigh. You get close. You come to Him. You confess sin, according to the second part of that verse. *Cleanse your hands, ye sinners.*

And of course, we know that I John 1:9 is to a saved person. *If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins: and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* We're to do this not only as an outward confession of sin, in other words, quitting it, quit working and stop doing it, but it's an inward confession, allowing the Holy Spirit to have control. Confess and mean it. Quit straddling the fence. "Make up your mind," James is saying here. You need to quit this foolishness.

In Isaiah 1:15-16, it says: ¹⁵*And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.* ¹⁶*Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil.*

God can't honor your prayers if you are constantly doing the things that you are not supposed to be doing as a saved person. God says, "I will hide my eyes from you." Cleanse yourself. Confess your sin. Let God be your God. Quit straddling that fence.

James 4:9 says, *Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.* In other words, be greatly sorrowful for your sins. Instead of laughing while sinning, be as one who weeps because of a death. We've gotten so used to sin in this world as saved people that we suddenly find ourselves laughing at those off-color jokes. We find ourselves listening to that music that is bringing the things of the devil. In other words, it's called Christian music a lot of times, but it is not actually Christian. It has the appearance and the sound of the world, and the Bible says that's wrong.

The Bible says to come out from among them. The Bible tells us that we are not to be of this world. We are to do the things of God. In other words, we are to be like God. We are to be like Jesus Christ. And I'll have you to know that the only way you can do that is to have Christ living within your heart.

James 4:10 says, *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.* Quit being proud of your sin and God will exalt you, James is saying here. Matthew 23:12 says, *And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.* Quit being so proud and humble yourself to God. He's speaking to saved people.

The next part of this chapter, verses 11-12, I believe, is saying, "Respect other Christians." James says have respect for other Christians. James 4:11 says, *Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the*

law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

"Don't slander," James is saying here. Don't slander. Do not defame. Do not slander a brother in Christ, the brethren. By slandering each other, you slander God's Word. The royal law says love your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27 says, *And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.* James 2:8 says, *If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.* That's the royal law. Loving your neighbor. Loving your brethren.

It's been good being with you today, and let me invite you to listen next week. We're going to pick up with verse 12 of James chapter 4. And I would remind you that James, the one who wrote this book, this epistle, was the half-brother of Jesus Christ. And not only that, as we're studying the Word of God, we need to understand that the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword. The Word of God leads people to salvation. Without the Word of God, there is no salvation. Without the shed blood of Jesus Christ, there is no salvation. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. And the Word of God is the inspired Word of God; that's the Bible.