

Women's Bible Study

May 29, 2019

James 4: 6-12

James 4:6 But, he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Grace is defined as an unmerited free gift of God of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. The New Strong's Concordance Greek Dictionary defines **humble** as meek; gentle; mild

The humble person does not have a low opinion of himself; he is "not occupied with self at all," because he trusts God's goodness and His control over situations. *Life Change Series on James*

[Ephesians 2: 8-9](#) For it is by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

[1 Peter 5:5](#) Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

[Proverbs 3: 34](#) Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.

God provides plenty of grace for us to overcome our envy, craving for pleasure, and consequent quarreling. He offers abundant grace to respond to Him with full devotion. *Life Change Series/James*

Q -Why does He give us this grace only if we are humble, never if we are proud?

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Submit: Not a passive lying back and letting God do whatever He wants, but an active obedience to God's commands as a soldier submits to his general. Submission to God is active as resistance of the Devil. *Life Change Series/James*

Submit your understanding to the truth of God; submit your wills to the will of his precept, the will of his providence. Submit yourselves to God, for he is ready to do you good. If we yield to temptations, the devil will continually follow us; but if we put on the whole armor of God, and stand out against him, he will leave us. *Matthew Henry Commentary*

Faith, humble prayers, and heavenly wisdom, are the weapons of resistance. *Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary*

[Matthew 4: 1-11](#) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

But, he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, and on their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, you shall not put the Lord your God to the test." Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

[Ephesians 6: 11-18](#) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

[1Peter 5:8-9](#) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

[1John 5:18](#) We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

Q- How can you actively submit to God today?

James 4: 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

"A man sanctifies himself on the earth, and then he is sanctified from heaven. As the man is a sinner, he must have his hands cleansed from wicked works; as he is double-minded, he must have his heart sanctified. Sanctification belongs to the heart, because of pollution of mind; cleansing belongs to the hands, because of sinful acts." *Clarke's Commentary*

The New Strong's Concordance Greek Dictionary defines sanctification as to purge; cleanse. "In short, James meant no other thing in this passage, than that God is never wanting to us, except when we alienate ourselves from him. He is like one who brings the hungry to a table and the

thirsty to a fountain. There is this difference, that our steps must be guided and sustained by the Lord, for our feet fail us." *Calvin's Commentary*

"His word "come" means "transact." "Come unto me." (Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest). The last thing we do is to come; but everyone who does come knows that that second the supernatural rush of the life of God invades him instantly. The dominating power of the world, the flesh, and the devil is paralyzed, not by your act, but because your act has linked you on to God and His redemptive power.
Oswald Chambers

[Psalm 73:28](#) But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

[Zechariah 1:3](#) Therefore say to them, Thus declares the Lord of Hosts; Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

[Malachi 3:7](#) Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'

[Hebrews 7:18-19](#) The former is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

[Isaiah 1:16](#) Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong.

[Psalm 24:4](#) The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

[Jeremiah 4:14](#) Jerusalem, wash the evil from your heart and be saved. How long will you harbor wicked thoughts?

[Psalms 119:113](#) I hate double-minded people, but I love your law.

[James 1:6-8](#) But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave to the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

"Wash your hands. Before the OT priests approached God at the tabernacle, they had to wash their hands and feet at the bronze basin as a symbol of spiritual cleansing and a pure heart."

NIV Notes

Q -Have you ever wondered why you didn't feel God near to you? What should we do when God seems far away?

James 4:9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

[Luke 6:25](#) Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

The New Strong’s Concordance Greek Dictionary defines **mourn** (pentheo) as a sorrow which is outwardly expressed in some way, such as by tears or laments (wailing). It describes not only a grief which brings an ache to the heart, but also a grief which brings tears to the eyes. **Gloom** (katepheimis) defined as dejection; denotes downcast expression caused by a heavy heart. **Wail** (klaio) means to cry with emphasis upon noise accompanying the weeping.

“James is calling for **open repentance** explaining that to "**grieve, mourn and wail**," unite to form an urgent demand for open and thorough repentance. The intensity of the demand is startling, intended to shake these double-minded believers.” *D. Edmond Hiebert*

“Be afflicted and mourn. Christ denounces mourning on those who laugh, as a curse, (Luke 6:25) and James, speaks here of that salutary (profitable) mourning or sorrow which leads us to repentance. The laughter is to be taken as signifying the flattering with which the ungodly deceive themselves, while they are infatuated by the sweetness of their sins and forget the judgment of God.” *Calvin’s Commentaries*

Q-Why is grief often appropriate for Christians, and how can we mourn our sins without losing joy?

.. **Joy** is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, produced by **God's** work in us, and it is part of **God's** will for us. “This joy in James 4:9 refers to one which is fleeting and superficial, that comes when we indulge in sin. True joy will never be experienced when we ignore, tolerate or indulge in sin. Real joy only comes when we have squarely faced the reality of our sin, brought it before the Lord in repentance and humility and experienced the cleansing work of the Spirit. *John MacArthur Commentary*

Calvary proves that sin troubles God—Does it trouble you?

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

The New Strong’s Concordance Greek Dictionary defines **exalt** as to uplift; glorify

[1 Peter 5:6](#) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

[Matthew 23:12](#) Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

[Job 5:11](#) he sets on high those who are lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety.

Q- What are some ways we can humble ourselves before our God?

James 4:11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Here James is talking about the royal law. The law of love ([Lev 19:18](#) You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord) is called royal because it is the supreme law that is the source all other laws governing human relationships. *NIV Notes*

[Roman's 1:30-31](#) slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

[2Corinthians 12:20](#) For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder.

[1Peter 2:1](#) So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

[Matthew 7:1](#) Judge not, that you be not judged.

[James 2:8](#) If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

[James 1:22](#) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Q- Is it okay to speak against someone as long as we are sure it is the truth?

To slander or judge a brother is to criticize and judge God's Law.

James 4:12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

[Isaiah 33:22](#) For the Lord is our judge; the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our king; he will save us.

[James 5:9](#) Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

[Matthew 10:28](#) And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

[Matthew 7:1](#) Judge not, that you be not judged.

“Our lips must be governed by the law of kindness, as well as truth and justice. Christians are brethren. And to break God's commands, is to speak evil of them, and to judge them, as if they laid too great a restraint upon us. We have the law of God, which is a rule to all; let us not presume to set up our own notions and opinions as a rule to those about us, and let us be careful that we be not condemned of the Lord.” *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary*

