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# ***JAMES – Practical Christianity Living Contrary to Popular Opinion***

Part 9

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, November 1, 2015*

## ***James 4:1-12***

### **The Way to Life Is Dying to Self**

“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.” *James 4:1-3, ESV*

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.” *Colossians 3:5-10, ESV*

Being a Christian Is Not About What I Can Get Out of Life  
– But How I Can Glorify God with My Life

### **The Way of God Is to Offer Solutions**

“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” *James 4:4-6, ESV*

“Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” *Romans 5:20, ESV*

You Would Think That When I Sinned Again Against God That He Would Hate Me. Rather, I Find That He Yearns to Restore Me

### **The Way to Happiness Is Brokenness**

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your

laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, **and he will exalt you.**" *James 4:7–10, ESV*

### **How Do I Submit?**

#### 1. I Resist the Devil

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

**1 Corinthians 10:13, ESV**

#### 2. I Draw Near to God

#### 3. I Get Serious About Sin

"Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil" *Isaiah 1:16, ESV*

#### 4. I Claim Sin for What it Is

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

**Matthew 5:3–4, ESV**

#### 5. I Live to Build Others Up

"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. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?" *James 4:11–12, ESV*

Living Contrary to Popular Opinion Is Simply Being a  
Living Demonstration That God's Wisdom Matters to Me