

## James Part 8

### In Part 7

At the beginning of Chapter 4, James takes on the challenge of “What causes fights and quarrels among you?”

He gives credit to their own desires that battle within and covetousness. Then he says in Vs 2 “You do not have because you do not ask God.”

In Vs. 4 James warns that a “friend of this world is an enemy of God.” Meaning a friend of the systems of this world, not simply someone who is friendly to people in this world.

The Church is suppose to stand out from the world and be a shining light in a dark world. In other words we are suppose to be different from the world, meaning our values and convictions and lifestyle are supposed to be different from the world’s.

### 1 John 2

**15** Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. **16** For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

**Lust of the flesh** - Everything sinful or carnal thing flesh desires

**Lust of the eyes** - Everything sinful or carnal thing the eye desires

**Pride of life** - Self Sufficiency, without any need of God

The system of this world looks at everything different than the way God does:

- money
- morals and values

- marriage, family and relationships
- **The Christian view is with Surrender to God:** this is no longer mine, but rather everything I have belongs to the Lord.
- The sad truth is according to most metrics: Marriage and Divorce, Cohabitation, Porn addiction, even giving, there is no difference between the Church and the World.
- Based on research findings from Barna Group studies cited in the book unChristian. What they found to be different between Christians and Non Christians in America is this; Non Christians Recycle More and Christians play the lottery less.
- So the concern is; Has the Church in America given itself over to the system and ways of the world?

**1 Corinthians 6:20** “you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies..”

There was an old song we use to sing that went something like this:  
*"I am not my own I was bought with a price,  
 I was purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.  
 All my debts were paid by his sacrifice.  
 Hallelujah to the lamb who redeems my life."*

**Vs. 6** NKJV

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

“God resists the proud  
 but gives grace to the humble.”

## **James 4:7** NKJV

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- This is part of what I call the hinge point in this chapter.
- The book of James is very serious and straight to the point. Here James brings the listener to the thing that is needed.

### **1st - Submit to God**

- How can God lead me in any kind of spiritual victory, if I don't first submit to Him.
- This is perhaps the reason so many Christians struggle, because submitting to God means I have to give up doing it my way. It means I surrender my will to God's will.
- A Missionary once said "*Submission doesn't mean I will do it as long as I agree. Submission doesn't happen until I disagree.*" **Theresa Hubbell**
- That's the difference between cooperation and submission. God doesn't call us to just cooperate with him but to submit even when we don't agree.
- How often do people struggle submitting to natural authority. Then when God who is the ultimate authority, wants their attention, they completely ignore and dismiss Him. I have found people who fail to submit to natural authority have a really hard time submitting to God.
- Submitting to God is the #1 key to walking in Spiritual Authority and victory over the devil. Without it we will never foster close relationship with God. Without it we will never know his voice, because God doesn't talk to people who don't listen.

- **Curtis Hubbell:** A person I admire as a great example of what it looks like to humble themselves and Submit is Missionary Curtis Hubbell. The Last time Curtis was with us, he was dressed in a suit and tie. Curtis is usually in motorcycle leathers with a long beard. I asked Curtis why, and he said The leadership of the Assemblies of God World Missions asked him to set that aside for his newly assigned mission in Ukraine and instead of bucking up, Curtis said yes sir.
- Because Curtis submitted he was appointed a World Missionary to Ukraine and guess what. He now has a Motorcycle Ministry in Ukraine along with everything else he does there.

## 2nd - Resist the devil and he will flee from you

Notice the different posture involved with the Devil as opposed to God. The poster with God is humble and submissive. The poster with the Devil is strong and authoritative.

- As a matter of fact the same word “Resist” used in Vs. 6 is used in Vs. 7.

**6** “God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble.”

**7** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- God **Resists** the proud, but if we humble ourselves and submit to God he now gives us the power to **Resist** the Devil...
- We will never have authority in the spirit realm if we don't first submit to God.

Jesus is best example we have.

**John 5:19** "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing".

**John 8:28** "...I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me".

**John 12:49-50** "I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it".

**John 14:31** "I do exactly as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father".

### **Acts 10:38 KJV**

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

- **Jesus was anointed by God and total victory over the Devil because he first submitted to God in every way.**
- **Satan can be set running by the resistance of the smallest, youngest, newest believer who first submits to God and then resists the devil.**
- **This is where true spiritual authority that comes.**

### **Vs. 8 NKJV**

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

- This has to be one of the greatest promises that we have in God's word...

“When a soul sets out to seek God, God sets out to meet that soul; so that while we are drawing near to him, he is drawing near to us.”

**(Clarke)**

- Is there anything more unmovable by man’s ability than God. We might be able to move a mountain. We might be able to travel to the moon and back. We might be able to build the tallest building or reach the depths of the Sea. But who by sheer force or intellect can move God or make Him do anything? This is truly impossible, yet God’s word unlocks a secret. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...

God moves towards you when you first move towards Him...

No one can do this for me... No one can pay the price for me...

I must decide in my heart how much of God do I want and then begin to move towards Him and that is where he meets me...

### **Charles Spurgeon said on this topic:**

- It means to draw near in worship, praise, and in prayer.
- It means to draw near by asking counsel of God.
- It means to draw near in enjoying communion with God.
- It means to draw near in the general course and tenor of your life.

This illustrates the difference between the old covenant and the new covenant. In the old covenant, God told Moses not to come any closer to the burning bush and take off his shoes. Under the new covenant, God says to us: “Draw near to Me and I will draw near to you.” Now the ground has been sprinkled with the blood of Jesus, and we can come close to God by His Grace.

## **Vs. 8b-10** NKJV

**8b** Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. **9** Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- Billy Graham once said, “*The closer you get to God the more aware you become of your sin.*”
- I once heard it said that the only proper posture before God is flat on our faces.

We read this in **Revelation 1**

**10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, **11** saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

**12** Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, **13** and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. **14** His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; **15** His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; **16** He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. **17** And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. **18** *I am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.

- This is John the Disciple who was perhaps the closest one to Jesus about his experience seeing Jesus in his Glory in Heaven and how he responded.

- John couldn't do anything but fall at his feet as though he were dead.
- Isaiah writes about his experienced when he saw the Lord.

## Isaiah 6

**1** In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. **2** Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. **3** And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

**4** At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

**5** “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

**6** Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. **7** With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

- Both John and Isaiah as they experienced the presence of God They did what James said; Cleanse *your* hands, and purify *your* hearts, Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom.

## **In the Presence of the Lord it is only right to:**

- Cleanse your hands
- Purify your heart
- Lament, mourn and weep
- Turn your laughter to mourning and joy to gloom.

When we do these things God promises...

### **Vs. 10**

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- John humbled himself in Revelation 1 and Jesus lifted him up
- Isaiah humbled himself when he saw the Lord and God lifted him up.

When we humble ourselves before the Lord, I'm so thankful he doesn't leave us there long, He also lifts us up.