

James Part 9

James 4:7

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

- Last week we talked about what it means to submit to God.

“Submission doesn’t mean I cooperate when I like it and agree, submission means I will cooperate when I don’t agree or want to.”

- Why should we submit to God? Because we love Him and we trust Him...
- Submitting to God first is what gives us authority to resist the devil well. This is where spiritual victory comes from so after we resist the Devil he will flee.
- “Public victories are first won in private.”
- If we don’t submit to God and resist the Devil, not only will he not flee but he camps out. Nothing good comes from the Devil camping out at your place.
- We really only have one of two options: We either submit to God and resist the Devil; or we resist God and submit to the Devil.

Vs. 8-10 NKJV

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. 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 own sin.*”
- When we read a text like this, first off it’s very sobering and second we wonder what this actually looks like. We can look at scripture and it gives us examples of what it looks like in both the NT and OT.

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 considered the closest to Jesus. This is what it was like for him when he drew close to God and saw Jesus in his Glory in Heaven.
- John fall at his feet as though he were dead and Jesus reached down put his hand on him and said do not be afraid.

- Isaiah the Prophet 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 experienced in the presence of the Lord what James speaks of; Cleanse *your* hands, purify *your* hearts, Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom.

Vs. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

There is an awesome promise in God’s word. If we will humble our selves, He will lift us up.

Jesus said in **Matthew 21:44**

“And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

- It's better for a man to humble himself before the Lord than to put it off and God has to do it for him.

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, he doesn't leave us there, He lifts us up.

James 4:6

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

Closing: