

Faith Resolutions

Week 8: I Will Draw Near to God

Series:

- Week 1: I Will Endure Trials (James 1:1-12)
- Week 2: I Will Trust God During Temptation (James 1:13-18)
- Week 3: I Will Hear and Obey God's Word (James 1:19-27)
- Week 4: I Will Not Favor One Person Over Another (James 2:1-13)
- Week 5: I Will Demonstrate Faith by Belief and Works (James 2:14-26)
- Week 6: I Will Speak with Self-Control (James 3:1-12)
- Week 7: I Will Live in God's Wisdom (James 3:13-18)
- Week 8: I Will Draw Near to God (James 4:1-10)
- Week 9: I Will Not Be Arrogant (James 4:11-17)
- Week 10: I Will Not Oppress (James 5:1-6)
- Week 11: I Will Be Patient (James 5:7-12)
- Week 12: I Will Pray in Faith (James 5:13-18)
- Week 13: I Will Help Restore Those Who are Wandering (James 5:19-20)

Scripture:

James 4:1-10

Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

What is a resolution? It's a decision and determination *to do* or *not do* something.

Scripture is full of resolutions.

James wrote about resolutions that every Christian should have as a part of their life.

Three Steps to a Resolution -

- **A Decision to Change** (this is not enough by itself)
- **A Plan to Progress** (where the real work happens)
- **A Commitment to Endure** (Some quit at the first sign of failure)

Most never move past the first step because they don't prepare for the next two steps.

We'll be talking about the ***13 Faith Resolutions in the book of James.***

Eighth Faith Resolution – I Will Draw Near to God.

Information (What You Need to Know):

Four Types of People Regarding Conflict -

- Creators (create it)
- Seekers (find it)
- Abstainers (avoid it)
- Peacemakers (resolve it)

Decision to Change – *Conflict will not be a way of life*

What causes conflict?

- **Selfishness** *“I want what I want – when I want it and how I want it”*
James 4:1 (ESV) What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?
- **Jealousy** *“I want what you have and I’ll do what it takes to get it”*
James 4:2 (ESV) You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel....
- **Wrong Motives** *“I will use God to get what I want”*
James 4:2 (ESV) ...You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
- **Friendship with the World** *“I prefer what the world offers me”*
James 4:4 (ESV) 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.

At the heart of every conflict is pride – *viewing my rights, pleasures, and desires as central to everything.*

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

Conflict is avoided when we draw near to God.

Plan to Progress

- **Submit to God** (willingly place yourself under God's authority)
James 4:7 (ESV) Submit yourselves therefore to God.
- **Resist the Devil** (take a stand against your enemy)
James 4:7 (ESV) ...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- **Draw Near to God** (long for and pursue communion with God)
James 4:8 (ESV) Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.
“Walk away from your enemy into the hands of your friend”
- **Confess and Mourn Sin** (remove what shouldn't be there)
James 4:8 (ESV) ...Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.
- **Humble Yourself Before God** (empty yourself of self-dependence)
James 4:10 (ESV) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

A Commitment to Endure

One of the marks of a true follower of Christ is that they will seek to live in peace.

Romans 12:18 (ESV) If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

When you draw near to God, you will also experience peace with others.