

Submit Yourselves to God

But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it but sitting in judgment on it.” James 6–11

James 4:1–12 identifies the root of human conflict as internal passions and worldly desires that war within us, leading to envy, quarrels, and even violence. The passage diagnoses the spiritual condition of believers as “adulterous” for seeking friendship with the world, which creates enmity with God, who jealously desires the Spirit He has placed within us.

The prescribed cure involves a seven-step process of humility and repentance: submit to God, resist the devil, draw near to Him, cleanse your hands, purify your heart, mourn over sin, and humble yourselves before the Lord. This posture invites God’s grace, which is actively given to the humble but opposed to the proud.

Finally, the text commands believers to stop speaking evil against one another, recognizing that judging a brother is effectively judging the law itself. Since there is only one Lawgiver and Judge who alone has the power to save or destroy, humans are warned against assuming the role of final arbiter over their neighbors’ lives.

James commands Christians to have joy when they encounter tough situations or trials. Our joy does not come from the trials of life, but what our trials produce. Trials and tough situations produce a strong and consistent faith in God. As believers we are not promised a life of comfort, but we are promised a Comforter. We should be joyful when we face trials not because we have trials, but because of what those trials produce. The joy is in the product of trial, not the trial itself. But when we find ourselves facing a trial, we can still have joy because we trust God that in His plan will produce something good.

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Hebrews 12:2–3

Written by Jodi Spicer

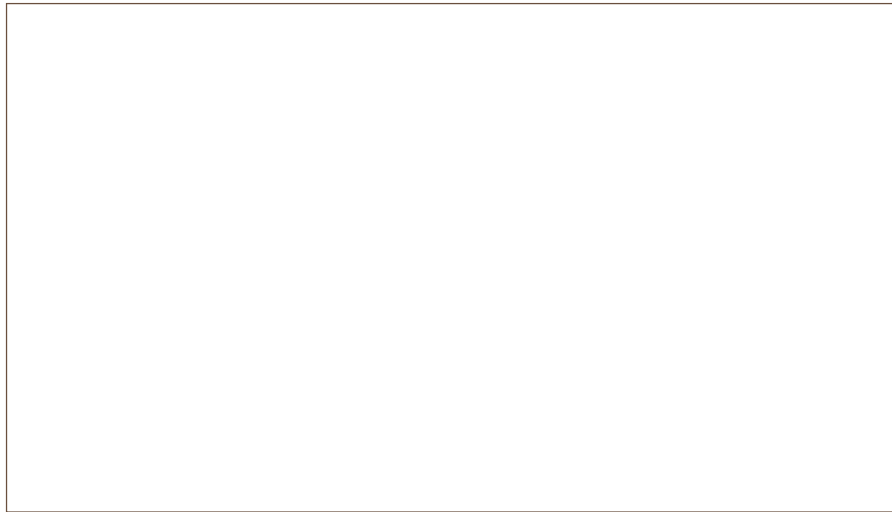
STUDY
COMPANION
WEEK
THREE

Surrendered

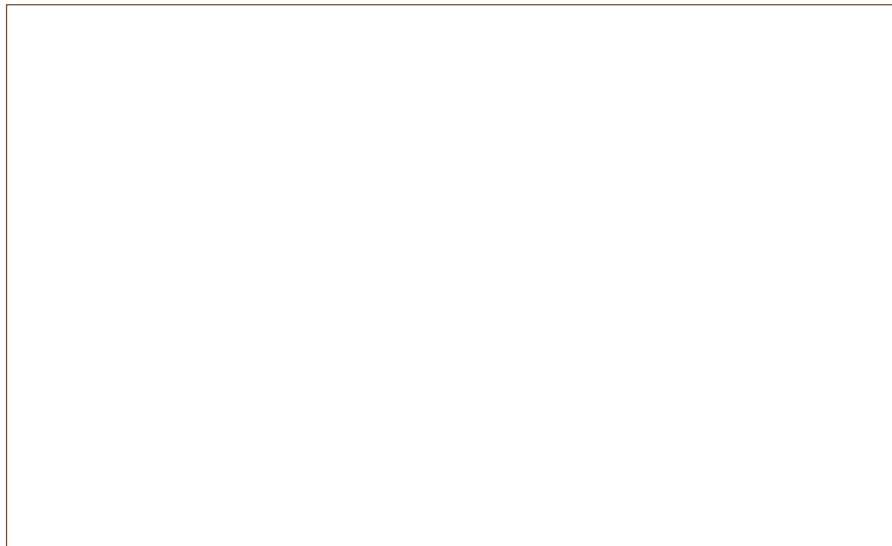
SURRENDERED
EXPECTATIONS

Message Notes

How will you put what you've learned into practice in your marriage this week?



Our Prayers



Memory Verse

*"However, let each one of you love his wife as himself,
and let the wife see that she respects her husband."
Ephesians 5:33*

Notes

