

James 4:7-10
“Finding God’s Will”
May 17, 2026

“What is God’s will for my life?” is a good question; we need to be asking this question every day, before every small and big decision. Many books have been written to help us answer this question.

The best starting point for “What is God’s will for my life?” is, “What is God’s will?” The NT contains many commandments for us. Grammatically speaking, these verbs appear in the “imperative mood.”

The Epistle of James has a higher concentration of imperative verbs than any other NT book, almost one command for every two verses.

What is God’s will? Ten imperatives in James 4:

Submit to God, v 7

Resist the devil, 7

Draw near to God, v 8

Cleanse your hands, v 8

Purify your hearts, v 8

Lament, v 9

Mourn, v 9

Weep, v 9

Let laughter be turned to mourning, v 9

Humble yourself in sight of the Lord, v 10

Three promises from obedience:

The devil will flee from you, v 7

God will draw near to you, v 8

The Lord will lift you up, v 10

There is no logical reason not to obey:

Romans 12:1 “...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” (rational service of worship)

2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” I.e., the cure for double-mindedness.

James 4:7 “... Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

See **Luke 4:1-3**. The devil tempted Jesus with the “world,” the lust of the flesh, the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. Jesus resisted him with Scripture, and he fled. *We* resist, stand firm, oppose, not attack.

The three offerings from the world are, “This will taste good; this will make me look good; this will prove that I *am* good.” Things that taste good, look good, and excellence in achievement are not bad in and of themselves. The difference is in our heart attitude: Are we living for our own glory and pleasure, or for God’s glory and pleasure? Are we double-minded, or not?

We stand firm against the devil only while wearing the whole armor of God, **Ephesians 6:10ff**.

V 8 God is relational. He moves toward his children when His children move toward Him. And, God meets us more than half way. Our responsibility is to stop the overt sin in our lives; and live for God and not ourselves. Our power to do this comes from the Spirit within us, **James 4:5**. We cleanse our hands as we stop being conformed to the world, and become transformed by the renewing of our mind. We stop being double-minded when we give ourselves a living sacrifice to God. See **1 John 1:9**.

V 9 Our proper perspective on the harmfulness of worldliness must cause us to grieve and have a total change of attitude about serving God. This is not saying that the believer must live a life of gloom and doom; but sin is not a laughing matter.

V 10 Humble means “place yourself lower.” Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. The world says “promote yourself”; The Word says, place yourself under God, and He will promote you.

Isaiah 66:2 “...But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.”

1 Peter 5:6 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,”

An important distinction that must not be overlooked:

For the believer to draw nearer to God: Cleanse our hands, and purify our hearts, in the power of the Spirit within us (James 4:5).

For the unbeliever to draw nearer to God: Believe in the Gospel for everlasting life. See Cornelius, **Acts 10**; Lydia, **Acts 16**; the Philippian jailer, **Acts 16**. The unbeliever cannot do any good deeds that require the Spirit to accomplish!