

James 4:4-6
“He Gives More Grace”
September 20, 2026

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

Three sources of our trials and tribulations:

1. The sins of others

We suffer because of the sins other people do. It might be an intended, or unintended, effect of others sins.

Adam’s sin brought the curse of sin and death to the planet; we live in a body that needs redemption, and we live in a world that needs redemption. Evil things happen in the cursed world.

God is allowing the Creation to groan for its redemption.

James 2:6 “...Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? **7** Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?”

James 3:8 “But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

From the mouths of others comes the deadliest poisons of all. We suffer from other’s words; and our own words can cause suffering.

James 4:11 “Do not speak evil of one another, brethren...”

We suffer from judgmentalism from other believers. Sometimes we need comfort, not correction. Let God supply the correction.

James 5:4 “Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out...”

We get treated unfairly.

2. Our own sin

We bring tribulation upon ourselves by the natural repercussions of our own sins. We bring God’s discipline upon us by our disobedience. We might eventually bring about God’s judgment upon us by our hard heartedness.

James 1:14 “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”

James 4:1 “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?”

3. Spiritual attack

Humanity in general has an adversary, who resents the presence of the “images of God” on Earth. Believers in particular have an adversary, an accuser, who works against us and attempts to sidetrack our Earthly mission. Satan and his demons are the cause for some of our trials and tribulations.

James 5:11 “...You have heard of the perseverance of Job...”

We have heard of the perseverance of Job because God allowed Satan to torment him. The same thing happens to us. James reminds us that some of our tribulations are because the devil hates us.

These three things the believer is in constant conflict with! But, not with God. He does not intentionally send evil things our way. But He does allow evil things to happen to us. God has a direct will, and He has a permissive will. See **James 1:13**. Man sinned, and the world is not as it should be; Jesus came to redeem the Creation from futility. Until then, there is a futility to be experienced. And that includes suffering.

James 4:5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose? He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us. **6** But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”

God jealously wants us to live to please Him first, and not ourselves. When we don’t, instead of judgment, he gives us more generosity. When we drift toward spiritual adultery and start to fall in love with the world, instead of divorcing us, He forgives us and beseeches us to come back. He wants us to succeed, and He gives us grace to succeed, even when we fail, as long as we keep an humble attitude toward Him.

Because God wants us to persevere, and He picks us up when we can’t go any further, and when we are all spent, He is there with His grace to carry us through. His Spirit in us yearns for our devotion, And He does everything for us to make that possible.