

James 4:5–12 (ESV) *Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 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 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. 11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?*

Together we seek humility

Vs 5 *Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?*

Vs 6 *But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

The “more” grace here is like Paul’s “where sin increased, grace increased all the more” (Rom 5:20). God

James quotes Prov 3:34 and says we need to be like God and give more grace. That’s humility.

Hosea 6:1 (ESV) *“Come, let us return to the LORD;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.*

Simply - Pride is “My life for me” and humility is “My life for others.” Pride leads to destruction and unhappiness, and humility leads to fullness of life and joy.

Jonathan Edwards wrote a book called “On Revival” and in it he describes what fuels revival and what kills revival. Spiritual humility fuels it - spiritual pride kills it.

1. Pride makes you more aware of others’ faults - Humility allows you to be more aware of your own faults.
2. Pride makes you speak of others’ faults with harshness and contempt - Humility allows you to speak of others’ faults with grief and mercy.
3. Pride makes you separate from people you’ve criticized - humility allows you to stick with people no matter how difficult the relationship becomes.

You don't give up on relationships.

4. Pride makes you dogmatic about every point of belief whether major or minor because everything is major to the proud person - humility gives grace and is understanding to the points of others because everyone is major to the humble person.

A good marker that you are prideful is that you think you are not prideful.

5. Pride makes you either over-confront others or under-confront others - Humility allows you to lovingly confront others when necessary.

The humble don't care about making a point; they want to make a difference.

6. Pride makes people unhappy and feel sorry for themselves - filling up with self-pity because they are sure they deserve a good life - humility allows you to know the truth that "I deserve to be cast off, but only by god's grace am I living," thereby giving them a good life of grace and joy.

God will allow satan to oppose you in order to humble you so you submit to God so you can get more grace, so you will finally be satisfied.

Vs 7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

1 Corinthians 5:5 (ESV) *you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.*

- Submit is a military term that means "get into your proper rank."
- Your greatest weapon against your greatest enemy is humility.
- You Fight satan by ceasing your fight with God.

The opposite is also true. Some are submitting to the devil and resisting God - and God will leave you alone - but its dark - its what hell is made of - no God.

Your fight triggers satan's flight. Your weapons are submission to God and humility.

When we are proud, we are satan's pawn. "That's impossible," you say. "But, I'm a Christian." I'm not speaking of you being demon possessed - I'm talking about you being like Peter. In Matthew 16, Peter makes the great confession that Jesus is the Christ! Then, in a moment, he is being used by the devil.

- Unconditional surrender is the only way to complete victory.

Vs 8 *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded*

Ancient armies often attached a banner or a flag to a pole as a focal point and a rallying sign for their troops engaged in battle.

Exodus 17:15 (ESV) *And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner*

John 12:32 (ESV) And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Get cleaned up AFTER you draw near.

Vs 9 *Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.*

One of the things the Puritans would pray for is tears. They would pray to be grieved by their sins.

This does NOT mean we are to live miserable lives submitted to God - this means that if your attitude toward God is "I won't surrender, my life is my own," then you need to be in a season of taking your sin seriously and it should devastate you - but only for a season because you will be given more grace.

Vs 10 *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

How?

Look at Verse 6. He gives more grace. What does that mean? Jesus lived out verses 6, 7, and 8 for you.

Jesus humbled himself. 6 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Jesus submitted himself to God 7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God.*

Jesus resisted the devil *Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

Jesus took on "I am my own" by becoming alone so you wouldn't have to. He could not draw near to God, in order for you to draw near to God - to see the banner he raised - an old rugged cross. 8 *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.*