

James: Practical Daily Faith

Part 9 – A Life Lesson

James 4:1–10

Key Truth: My biggest problem is often failing to recognize that **I am my biggest problem**. James points us away from our lusts, pride, and self-sufficiency and toward the sufficiency of God's grace.

I. My Biggest Problem Is Me

James 4:1–3

- Conflict begins with the **lusts that war within us**.
- Before focusing on someone else's shortcomings, examine your own.
- Without God, we pursue **what we want, when we want it**—yet remain unsatisfied.
- Even prayer can become selfish when we ask God merely to satisfy our desires.

God isn't a means of getting what I want—He is what I need.

Notes:

II. Friendship With the World Is Enmity With God

James 4:4–5

- Depending upon ourselves or the world instead of God is spiritual unfaithfulness.
- The flesh continually pulls us toward our own **will, wants, and ways**.
- God already knows the depth of man's problem—and He provided the only sufficient solution.

Notes:

III. But He Giveth More Grace!

James 4:6

God's answer to our greatest problem is **GRACE**.

Grace is:

- God's unmerited love and favor.
- God's divine influence working in us.
- Christ's righteousness applied to the sinner.
- Reconciliation and peace with God.
- Sufficient for our weakness.

Grace is the key to the better life we desire and the only means to true satisfaction.

Notes:

IV. Submit, Resist & Draw Near

James 4:7–8

Submit to God

- **He's right; you're not.**
- Die to your own **will, wants, and ways.**

Resist the Devil

- Stand upon what **God has said.**
- Hide His Word in your heart.
- Resist—and he will flee.

Draw Near to God

Go where He is:

- **His Word**
- **His House**
- **His Throne Room**

Cleanse your hands and purify your heart.

Notes:

V. Die to Self & Humble Yourself

James 4:9–10

Dying to self is painful to the flesh:

- **Be afflicted** — let it die.
- **Mourn** — don't resurrect it.
- **Weep** — recognize the pain and seriousness of sin.
- Don't allow yesterday's sin to become a fond memory—or it may become today's reality.

The Life Lesson

Pride is my biggest problem.

Rather than seeking recognition, honor, or attention:

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." — James 4:10

Notes:

Practical Daily Faith

**Recognize SELF → Receive GRACE → SUBMIT to God → RESIST the Devil → DRAW NEAR to God
→ HUMBLE yourself**

Maybe one of life's greatest lessons is simply learning to get out of God's way.