

Humility, "Our Greatest Friend"
James 4:7-12

In our last study, we looked at the truth that God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble (v. 6). And since humility is where we experience God's grace it is truly our greatest friend. In our passage today, James gets very practical regarding specific ways that we are to walk in humility. May we hear and respond to what James says that we might turn away from areas of pride in our lives and instead walk in humility that we might experience God's grace.

Read James 4:7-12

1. What does it mean to submit to God (v. 7)?
2. When was the last time you expressed to God your desire to whole-heartedly submit to him?
3. James says that one way we submit to God is by resisting the devil (v. 7). Practically, how can we resist the devil? What is involved in obeying this command?
4. We can tend to think of drawing near to God as an emotional experience of feeling close to God. Feelings, however, are the byproduct of being near to God. And so, what does it mean to draw near to God (v. 8)?
5. For all who have trusted In Jesus, we ultimately have been cleansed and purified and so what is James advocating in the second half of verse 8?

Speaking of verse 9, Steve said:

When was the last time you were so broken up over your own sin (not someone else's but your own) that you wept? Depending on the nature of our sin and how deeply entrenched it is, we might need a **season** of lamenting for genuine repentance. Sometimes we need more than a quick confession of sin; we need to sit in the presence of God and feel His sorrow over our sin. The goal is to have the type of "repentance without regret" that Paul discussed in 2 Corinthians 7 (verses 5-13).

6. Why do you think we might need "a season of lamenting" at times to get to a place of genuine repentance?

7. How are all of the commands in 7-9 connected to the command in verse 10 to humble ourselves before the Lord?

8. Including verses 11-12, James gives around 8 commands in these verses. Are there any that you especially sense that God would have you focus upon?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted



Daily Devotion: Read and meditate upon next week's passage (James 4:13-17).



Prayer: If you sense a need to have a season of lamenting over your sin to get to a place of genuine repentance, Psalm 32 and 51 would be good psalms to pray.