

James 4:6-12

6-7. But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: '**God resists the PROUD, but gives grace to the HUMBLE.**' Therefore **SUBMIT to GOD. RESIST the DEVIL** and he will flee from you.

- **Proverbs 3:34** "Surely He _____ the scornful, but _____ to the _____."
- **I Peter 5:7-8** "Be _____, be vigilant; because your adversary (enemy) the _____ walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he _____ devour. _____ him, steadfast in the faith...."

Definition: "God resists the PROUD, but gives grace to the HUMBLE" - This is a continuation of the thought from verse 3 on unanswered prayer, "You ask and DO NOT RECEIVE, because you ask AMISS". Another way to "ask amiss" other than asking with wrong motives is to ask in a PRIDEFUL attitude. So, we need to **WORK on our ATTITUDE** and ASK for the faith, trust, and patience to put everything in God's hands and **LEAVE the RESULTS up to Him. Don't try to tell God HOW YOU think He ought to answer your prayer.** You can put it all in God's hands because He loves you and wants what is best for you. If you keep on insisting that God answer your prayers YOUR WAY and on YOUR SCHEDULE or timing, **that is really a form of PRIDE,** and **"God resists the proud"**

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** "Trust in the _____ with all your heart, and do not _____ on your own _____. In _____ your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall _____ your _____."
- **I Peter 5:5-7** "God _____ the _____, but gives _____ to the _____. _____ yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting _____ your care (worry, anxiety, fear) upon Him, because He cares for (loves) you."

Definition: "SUBMIT to GOD, RESIST the DEVIL" - This is another warning about PRIDE and the whole area of "attitude sins". Satan can't read your mind, but he can observe any actions or words based on your attitude. **God knows your ATTITUDE, and an attitude of HUMILITY is needed, because the most important condition is to HUMBLY SUBMIT yourself to God,** before you can RESIST the DEVIL and have him flee from you. This need for "attitude adjustment" is also compared in Scripture to the athlete who **strips down of ALL excess weight and entanglements** in order to run the race. If you are not prepared for battle by being completely SURRENDERED (submitted) to God in every area of your life, you will be open to attack from Satan (I Peter 5:7-8). Satan is looking for those whom he MAY devour and damage, and that means those who are vulnerable to his attacks and temptations, because they have a wrong attitude towards God. Humility is the opposite of pride, so get rid of any kind of PRIDE. You may not think you have a problem with pride. Pride can be thinking you are better than others, but it can also be just **holding onto YOUR OWN will - YOUR right to make YOUR OWN decisions.** You must SUBMIT yourself and SURRENDER yourself entirely to God, becoming a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1-2) by sacrificing and **turning your FREE WILL over to God** completely.

- **II Timothy 2:4** "No one engaged in _____ himself with the affairs of this life...."

- **Hebrews 12:1-2** "Let us lay aside every _____, and the _____ which so easily _____ us, and let us _____ with endurance the _____ that is set before us, looking unto Jesus..."
- **Ephesians 6:10-11** "Finally, my brethren, be _____ in the _____, and in the power of His _____. Put on the whole _____ of _____, that you may be able to stand _____ the wiles of the _____."

8. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. CLEANSE your HANDS, you SINNERS; and PURIFY your HEARTS, you DOUBLE-MINDED.

- **Psalm 73:28** "But it is good for me to _____ to God; I have put my _____ in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your works."
- **Hebrews 11:6** "But without faith it is impossible to _____ Him; for he that _____ to _____ must believe that He is, and that He is a _____ of them that diligently _____ Him."
- **Jeremiah 29:12-14** "Then you will _____ upon Me and go and _____ to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will _____ Me and _____ Me, when you _____ for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity....."

Definition: "PURIFY your HEARTS, you DOUBLE-MINDED" - "CLEANSING your HANDS and PURIFYING your HEARTS" is a way of saying REPENT of your sin! **TRUE REPENTANCE means TURNING AWAY from your sin, and turning to God and doing His will in EVERY AREA of your life.** If you do not **MAKE up your MIND** to completely turn away from your sin, you may "fall back into sin" because you have reserved for yourself the "right" to go back and do those things for "comfort" or "escape" whenever things gets really tough, or life is hard, or you've had a bad day, or just because **it seems "easier"** to go back to your old ways of coping with stress. **This is being "double-minded"** - repenting from sin on the one hand, and yet reserving the "right" to go back there when YOU feel like it.

- **James 1:7-8** "For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a _____-minded man, _____ in all his ways."
- **I Peter 1:22** "Since you have _____ your _____ in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, _____ one another fervently with a _____."
- **Psalm 86:11-12** "Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; _____ my _____ to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with _____ my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore."

Definition: "A DOUBLE-MINDED man" - Another term for being double-minded might be "straddling the fence" - trying to have "one foot" in God's kingdom, and the "other foot" in the world. It means not being diligent in seeking (drawing near to) the Lord, and not being WHOLEHEARTEDLY on God's side. In Psalm 86:11-12, David asks God to **"UNITE my HEART to fear Your name"**, because he knows how easy it is to have a **"divided heart" and a double mind.**

9-10. LAMENT and MOURN and WEEP! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **Humble yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, and **He will lift you up.**

- **Matthew 5:3-4** "Blessed are the _____ in _____ (humble), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who _____, for they shall be _____."

- **Psalm 51:16-17** "For you do not _____ sacrifices, or else I would give it; You do not _____ in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a _____, a _____ and a contrite _____ - these, O God, You will not despise."
- **I Peter 5:6-7** "Therefore _____ yourselves under the mighty _____ of _____, that He may _____ you (**lift you up**) in due time."
- **Luke 1:51-52** "He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the _____ in the imagination of their _____. He has put _____ the mighty from their thrones, and _____ the _____."

Definition: "LAMENT and MOURN and WEEP" - To lament means to weep, cry and feel deep sorrow; to mourn and grieve for something. When returning to the Lord after being away from Him in sin, it may be necessary to weep and feel remorse for our sin. Sin is never to be treated lightly. You may need to have a time of **mourning over your sins**. This would be **serious, introspective prayer and self-examination, confessing of sin, and realizing HOW MUCH Jesus SUFFERED to pay for you to be set free from those sins**. James 4:1-10 talks about the mourning and weeping you may need to do, as God's word tells us to weep and mourn over the seriousness of our sin, humble ourselves before God, submit ourselves entirely to God, draw near to God, stop being double-minded, **resist the devil**, stop being "friends with the world", stop asking for selfish things to cater to our lusts, and tells us to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts of sin.

- **Psalm 34:18** "The Lord is _____ to those who have a _____; and saves such as are of a contrite _____."

Definition: "A BROKEN and a CONTRITE HEART" - Contrite means having grief, remorse or deep sorrow for having done wrong, and especially sorrow for having offended God. Isaiah 57:15 says, "For thus says the High and Exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, 'I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the **CONTRITE and lowly of spirit (humble)**, in order **to revive the HEART of the contrite**.'" If you want to have a close relationship with the Lord, and "dwell with Him in a high and holy place," you **MUST** come to a place where you **HUMBLE** yourself before Him, and weep and mourn for the awfulness of your sin. You must come to God with a broken heart, not with **PRIDE** and arrogance, or rationalizing your sins. **This MOURNING and WEEPING will NOT last forever, as God desires to "REVIVE the heart of the contrite" (the one who is sorry for their sins)**, and Jesus said He came to **"HEAL the broken hearted."** There is much **JOY** in the Christian life, but only after you have come to God with a broken and contrite spirit, draw **NEAR** to Him, and **THEN** He will lift you up (exalt you), heal you, and give you His joy.

- **Luke 4:18** "He has sent Me to heal the _____, to preach deliverance to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed."
- **Isaiah 57:14-21** "And it shall be said, 'Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstacle out of the way of My _____.' For thus says the High and Exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, 'I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the _____ and lowly (humble) of _____, in order to revive the _____ of the _____. For I will not contend forever, neither will I always be angry; for the spirit would grow faint before Me, and the breath (soul) of those whom I have made.'"
- **John 15:4-5 & 11** "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear _____ of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you _____ in _____. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in (draws near and remains close to) Me, and I in him, bears much _____;

for without Me you can do nothing. These things I have spoken to you, that My _____ may remain in you, and that your _____ may be full."

- **Nehemiah 8:10** "....for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be _____, for the _____ of the _____ is your _____."

11-12. Do not SPEAK EVIL of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and **JUDGES his brother**, speaks evil of the law and **JUDGES the law** [of God]. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. **Who are you to JUDGE another?"**

- **Matthew 7:1-5** "_____ not, that you be not _____. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your _____ eye, but do not consider the plank in your _____ eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck out of your eye,' and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First _____ the plank from your own eye, and then you will _____ clearly to remove the speck out of your _____ eye."

Definition: "Who are you to JUDGE another?" - There is a mistaken idea among some Christians that we are NEVER allowed to "judge" one another, and the scripture verse they use is Matthew 7:1, "Judge not, lest you be judged." However, most people stop reading at that verse, instead of reading it in context. If you read **all of what Jesus was saying**, you see that He is only talking about the kind of "judging" that involves going around **trying to "fix" everybody else's life**, when your own life is still messed up! Notice, Jesus says **FIRST** remove the plank or log from your own eye, and **THEN you will see clearly** to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Obviously, that means there IS a time and place for one to "see clearly" and judge someone else's life. Also, Galatians 6:1-4 says that only those who are "spiritually mature" should try to restore a brother who has fallen into sin, and that it should be done in **a spirit of humility and not in pride**. How would we ever be able to restore a brother or sister if we were never allowed to **JUDGE** the sin in their life? However, when it comes to **judging another Christian**, God is more **concerned about the ATTITUDE of the person judging** - are you seeking to **HELP** that person, and **RESTORE** them to a holy walk with the Lord? I Corinthians 14:26b says "Let all things be done for edification." Edification means **BUILDING UP**, so **ALL** things, including **JUDGING SIN**, must be done for the building up of the church, or of individuals, not for tearing down. Ephesians 4:15-16 says we are to "speak the truth in **LOVE**" so that we may **GROW UP** to be like Christ, and this "growth of the body will be for the **EDIFYING** of itself (the church) in **LOVE**."

One kind of "judging" we are NOT to do is the kind that involves **"speaking evil" of another person**, which is **GOSSIP** and **BACK-BITING**. If you do not have all the facts, or if you are attributing certain **MOTIVES** to what a person does, you are **NOT** judging righteously, but are **GOSSIPING**. Only God can know the motives of a person's heart, and most of the time, we **DO NOT** have all the facts. Because only God can judge a person's **MOTIVES** for doing something, we are not allowed to speculate on **WHY** someone is doing something.