

Day Nine

James 4:5-10



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”? 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.

I. The Nature of _____ Worship (aka: good conflict with the right enemy)

A. Review

1. We must understand the nature of _____ (1:1-18). God is the foundation of good, the goal for good, and the enablement of good.
2. We must understand the nature of _____ (1:19-2:13). Truth is all that flows from God.
3. We must understand the nature of _____ (2:14-3:12). Faith is the belief we have that the Truth of God is trustworthy.
4. We must understand the nature of _____ (3:13-18). Wisdom is the steps we take to live out our faith in God’s Truth,

B. To be God’s friend we must _____ Him and worship Him.

1. The first step is to acknowledge that He’s worth it (4:5).
2. We also must embrace our need for _____. This understanding will result in our humility (4:6).
3. Our humility will lead to submission to God (4:7).
4. As we submit to God and align with Him, we will find it both necessary and easy to resist Satan, the world, and the flesh (4:7).
5. As we distance ourselves from all that is sinful (and as it distances itself from us — 4:7), we will draw near to _____. We cannot exist in a vacuum. And as we draw near to God, He will draw near to us (4:8).
6. But since God is holy and we are unclean, we’ll recognize the need to become _____.
 - a) We’ll cleanse our behavior (hands — 4:8),
 - b) By purifying our minds (hearts — 4:8).
 - (1) It’s in our minds that we choose to believe God.
 - (2) The double-minded man from 1:7 doubts God.
7. Our desperate need for holiness will drive us to sacred _____ and mourning.
 - a) We’ll be wretched.
 - (1) Wretchedness refers to misery and affliction.

- (2) This is the only time this Greek word is used in the Bible.
 - (3) It paints a picture similar to the slavery and oppression of the Israelites in Egypt.
 - (4) Does your sinfulness make you miserable?
- b) We'll _____.
- (1) Mourning is to grieve and lament.
 - (2) Does the presence of sin in your life cause you to lament?
- c) We'll _____.
- (1) This word for weeping means to “wail aloud” versus crying silently.
 - (2) Does your sin cause you to wail before God?
- d) Our laughter will be turned to mourning.
- (1) This is the only place in the Bible where this word for laughter is used.
 - (2) This word refers to laughing as a mark of gratification.
 - (3) When we truly understand Who God is and who we are, we will receive no gratification from ourselves.
- e) Our joy will be turned to _____.
- (1) The Greek word for “joy” is used frequently in Scripture.
 - (2) In fact, it's often *commanded* for the believer.
 - (3) And yet God says that our joy will be turned to gloom.
 - (4) “Gloom” refers to a downcast heaviness and sadness that grows from shame.
- f) Why is it God wants us to be gloomy?
- (1) All true _____ starts with an understanding of our spiritual destitution (Matthew 5:3).
 - (2) When we truly grasp our desperate spiritual need, we won't be able to help but be grieved and wail (Matthew 5:4).
 - (3) And it's that desperation that will drive us to submit to God in meekness (Matthew 5:5).
8. We'll continue to humble ourselves because we'll understand that we cannot please Him without His continued grace (4:10).
9. And God will _____ us (4:10).
- a) The word translated “exalt” refers to being lifted up.
 - b) It's the same root word use in Philippians 2 to refer to Christ's exaltation (which grew out of His humility).
 - c) It speaks to our positional exaltation in Christ,
 - d) But I also believe but refers to the lifting up of our character.
 - (1) Only after we're moved by our spiritual need and submit to God does He empower us to hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:6; see also Philippians 2:13, “*It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*”). And that hunger works itself out in mercy and purity and peace and _____ (Matthew 5:3-12).
 - (2) As we saw in James 4:6-8, we won't cleanse our actions and purify our minds until we first submit to God in humility.
 - (3) But we won't submit without first understanding His awesomeness and our need for _____ (4:5-6).