

James 4:4-10:

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 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"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Spiritual Recovery

James 4:6-10 – Breakdown into Steps

1. Submit yourselves therefore to God.
 2. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
 3. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.
 4. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and
 5. Purify your hearts, you double-minded.
 6. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning, your joy to gloom.
 7. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
-

1. Spiritual Submission to God

- a. "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then to God." - James 4:6,7
- b. The word "submit" here means to "take your rightful place in rank"
- c. This is a total and unconditional release of any claim to your life. It is counting yourself dead.

2. We can now resist the devil.

- a. This resistance is now empowered by faith while filled with the Spirit
- b. We must lay aside entangling sins.
 - i. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." – Hebrews 12:1
- c. We must come to our senses.
 - i. "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!' - Luke 15:17
- d. We must escape the snare of the devil that captivates us
 - i. "...correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will." -2 Timothy 2:25, 26

3. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

- a. We now can begin the journey home and draw near to God who is awaiting our return. He will meet and welcome us. (Luke 15:11-32)
 - i. "his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his

servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.' – Luke 15:20-22

b. Begin to apply 2 Peter 1:5-7 –

i. "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love."

4. Cleanse your hands, you sinners

a. Recovery demands correction of habits and actions

5. Purify your hearts, you double-minded

a. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

b. "purify" is "to wash." This requires confession of deeds done.

c. Our actions are washed in applying the word (Ephesians 5:26)

i. "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." – Ephesians 5:25-27

d. There must also be the purification of double minded attitudes.

i. This "double-mindedness" (James 1:8) is a wavering between God's will and our own will.

ii. "For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." – James 1:7-8

e. God's will must take precedence over our will.

i. Matt. 26:39 – "going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

ii. James 4:13-15 – "What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

iii. Isaiah 14:12-15 describes Satan's fall, Satan's attitude, and the spirit of this age:

1. "How you are fallen from heaven,

O Day Star, son of Dawn!

How you are cut down to the ground,

you who laid the nations low!

¹³ You said in your heart,

'I will ascend to heaven;

above the stars of God

I will set my throne on high;

I will sit on the mount of assembly

in the far reaches of the north;^[a]

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;

I will make myself like the Most High.'

¹⁵ ***But you are brought down to Sheol,***

to the far reaches of the pit.

f. For revival this decision must take place as Elijah challenged his generation in 1 Kings 18:21.

i. "Elijah came near to all the people and said, 'How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' And the people did not answer him a word."

- 6. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom**
- a. Only by true repentance will one endure the long journey home.
 - b. The path of spiritual recovery is often painful.
 - c. We must face all the bad decisions made in departing from the will of God.
 - i. Zacchaeus: “Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” – Luke 19:8
 - d. What provided “laughter” on the way down is a source of “mourning” in true repentance.
 - i. Matt.5:4,8 – “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. . . Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
 - ii. “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” (James 4:10)
- 7. Humble yourself before the Lord and he will lift you up**
- a. The “before the Lord” is the “presence of the Lord.” This signifies two things:
 - i. The completion of recovery has occurred.
 - ii. You are once again positioned to fulfill God’s perfect plan for your life.
 - b. Jonah fled from “the presence of the Lord.” (Jonah 1:3)
 - i. Which means Jonah fled from God’s plan for his life as far as location, function and attitude.
 - c. Once you are back you are again fully equipped to serve effectively just as the prodigal son was fully equipped upon his return.
 - i. “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. - Luke 15:21-24
 - d. Romans 11:29, “For God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.”
 - e. Even your gifts and your calling are never taken away even in your sin.
 - f. Recovery is necessary for your gifts and calling to be used to fulfill God’s plan for your life.