

Responding to Grace! James 4:6-12 “Faith Works”

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

7 Therefore submit 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 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

11 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. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

Today we are going to be considering one of the miss quoted verses in the Bible.

A)How many of you have ever heard someone say:

Resist the Devil and he will flee from you?

B)Now that is true – that is in the Bible – in fact it is here in V.7 of Chapter 4

C)The Problem is – **that is not a complete thought.**

1)There is a crucial component that is missing in that statement.

D)When taken in context – we see the complete thought.

Lets do some review: James is writing to Jewish believers that were facing lots of persecution.

A)Theme: The Christian life is about progress – not perfection.

B)James is writing to help these believers and us – **progress in the Christian life.**

1)Learning to understand the purpose of trials, how to deal with temptation,

C)How to treat each other **NO PARTIALITY**
1)Treating each other with grace

THESE believers were living under a time of Heightened persecution.

A)From the Jewish religious leaders as well as from the Romans – hard time to be a Christian.

B)Being a Christ follower in that day and age was not an easy task

C)There would be constant temptation to take the easy way out.

But leading into v.7 we read last time – V.6 God resist the proud but gives grace to the humble.

A)V.6 - **He gives more grace. - Grace upon grace**

B)**1st study – Manifold or many colored trials**

1)Many colored grace – There is grace from God to match the trials we face!

C)**Grace = God’s undeserved Favor. – Grace is God’s resources at Christ’s expense.**

D)Grace is strength from God in our weakness.

Romans 5:20 Where sin abounds – grace abounds all the more.

A)There is no sin with more power than the cross of Christ

B)I love how he words it. It abounds all the more.

It monumentally abounds.

1)It is not like Grace just squeezed by – or in the terms of a horse race. **Not – that Grace wins by a nose!**

C)**God’s Grace blows sin out of the water.**

1)Grace **finishes the race, showers, gets dressed, has something to eat, and then sin** crosses the finish line.

D)That's grace abounding all the more.

1)That's the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Grace abounds all the more.

So How do we tap into the grace of God that is needed to live our lives! Live in Strength

A)V.6 Humble yourselves – you come to the place where you realize your need.

B)You ADMIT you don’t have all the answers – you can’t do this – the Christian life on your own.

C) Now one of the First places we experience this in is – Marriage:

1) When I was single I thought I knew everything about Marriage. –

D) I am Not the only single guy to think that way.

1) I do premarital counseling all the time – young men think – I don't need this?

E) I read the Bible: I know My role – Love her as Christ loved the Church.

1) Laid down his life – I am willing to take a bullet – I will protect her.

I knew My role was to love Denise as Christ loved the Church. – How hard is that going to be? – Denise is amazing! -

A) **She is easy – I got this:**

B) Her role was to submit to me. – Again how hard is that going to be I am such a godly and awesome guy

C) That is how I thought at 22 yrs old – Live on love!

1) We got Jesus and each other – that is all that we need!

D) You know what else we had? – Very selfish and competitive sin natures.

1) Pretty soon – **WONDERING – WHO ARE YOU?** Where did that come from – didn't see that DATING

It didn't take long for me to feel like a complete Failure in Marriage.

A) I don't have a clue.

B) THIS IS SO MUCH HARDER THAN I THOUGHT

C) Another area where we see our need for Grace is in Parenting.

1) Oh my – My son Aaron made Denise Cry so many times.

D) Also Ministry: - You get put into a situation that is over your head.

1) God I need you – I don't have the answer I don't know what I am doing!

E) Youth Ministry: **1 PETER** – I Can't reach these kids – ready to quit –

1) God said: You can't but I can – MY WAY
So the first step is Humility – JESUS I NEED HELP

A) We assume that posture – He gives – Grace upon grace – MORE GRACE

B) GRACE FOR THE TASK AT HAND

1) GRACE FOR TODAY'S CHALLENGE.

C) But we get prideful and think we can do it on our own. - RESISTANCE – WEARY – FAILURE

SO GOD IS READY TO POUR OUT HIS GRACE – Question we want to answer today is this:

A) So how should we respond to this grace?
5 responses

B) **#1 Submit to God** – this is first – this has to come before resisting –

C) Before we can resist the devil we must submit to God.

Submit is a military term that means to place yourself under another.

A) We are saying that we want God to govern our lives – call the shots – be the leader - the Pilot.

B) Submission to God is an emptying of self-sufficiency.

C) Ever see those bumper stickers “God is my co-pilot” – **WRONG IDEA.**

1) **I AM THE PILOT** - God is just there if I get in trouble – need to go in the back – get a drink

D) Wrong Picture: The right picture is this: God is the pilot - PERIOD.

1) WHERE AM I? I am back in my seat – enjoying the ride.

E) He just wants me to trust him to get me to the destination. **FLEW 25K last 2 weeks**

NOW The degree to which I trust him makes the experience – like flying first class vs coach.

A) - Really trusting: First class – relaxed – enjoyable.

Never paid: Bumped up a few times

B)Amazing: Great service: Sure there's turbulence – but I am in first class – Seat turns into a bed – sleeping

1)Wake up – Someone says: Turbulence scary

C)Semi- trusting – Economy comfort –

1)Extra leg room –

D)Not really trusting – **Economy middle seat.-**
The whole experience is a drag!

E)Doesn't matter which seat – all getting to the destination.

1)Some had a great journey along the way:
Others NOT SO GREAT

Funny watch the people get off the plane: First class – all smiles – rested.

A)Economy comfort – looks pretty good – somewhat rested.

B)But the dude: Economy middle seat: Hoping good movies – 10 hours

1)Looks horrible - He is irritable. – Rude dude in Baggage claim.

C)CHRISTIAN LIFE IS SIMILAR -

How you are doing in the journey really depends on how submitted you are to the Lord!

A)How much do we trust Him?

B)Submit to God – that is the starting point. – that is where the strength comes in.

C)Struggling with sin in your life? Addiction? – First step is not to fight the sin but to submit to God.

D)God gives grace and more grace to battle the sin – battle the enemy when we humbly submit ourselves to him.

E)Everything else flows from there!

How do we respond to Grace?

#2 Resist the Devil and He will flee from you.

A) Resist = “to withstand, Stand firm- again this is wartime language

B)You don't run – you fight!

C)He will flee – eventually – might not be at once or that day.

1)Remember: **The Devil and his demons have limited resources – he is not Omniscient**

D)Can't be fighting you and the guy down the street or the believer in China at the same time.

Yes move fast – but when the Devil sees you submitted to God – under that protection of grace. –

A)He realizes – it is a waste of time to come at you. – Moves elsewhere.

B)**He flees- I like that – he flees** – not because – of you – But because of who is in you.

1)Greater is he who is in you World

C)You are standing behind – Your big Bro – Jesus

1)Denise in the closet – Dude – eyes got big – Fled – out of there.

Paul the apostle reminds us in the book of Ephesians Ch. 6 - Christian life is a Battleground not a playground

A)Stand strong – power of His might – not yours

B)Stand having clothed yourself in the reality of who you are in Christ! – Armor is all about

1)Belt of truth is the truth about what Christ has done that sets you free.

C)Breastplate of righteousness is His righteousness that has been applied to your life.

1)YOUR POSSESSION – Studies on line

D)**We resist by being submitted** – by standing in the power of Jesus.

1)By laying ahold of who we are in Christ

How do we respond to Grace?

#3 Draw near to God and He will Draw near to You!

A)Isn't James repeating what he said earlier – said – submit?

B)Not exactly – He is reminding us that – submission is not a one time event.

C)Submission is a daily moving towards Jesus!

The more I realize that I need Him. The more I realize that – all I need is found in Him

A) Natural response – Draw near.

B) Think of it this way: 2 Timothy 2:22 – Paul wrote flee youthful lust.

C) Youthful lust is not a teenager – dealing with hormones issue.

A young man in his earlier 20's asked an 85 year old Christian man he respected.

A) At what age do you stop struggling with lust?

B) The 85 year old man – said: **I don't know but I will let you know if I ever get there!**

C) So Paul writes flee youthful lust – and it is so important that we realize – not aimless fleeing.

1) **Friend on a date – got out of car** – ran down the street. –

Fleeing youthful lust is not aimless – Run from porn to R-rated movies – not helpful.

A) Back looking at porn before you know it

B) You flee in a direction: You run toward righteousness

²² Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

C) You flee lust by Pursuing: Aggressive – Police Pursuit..... aggressively pursuing righteousness

1) By aggressively building up your faith – WORD aggressively – drawing close to Jesus – fall in love.

D) And you do that with others who are seeking the Lord the same way.

1) Men's groups / Women's groups.

E) Build each other up. Accountable.

Listen: Not good accountability – Porn again

A) These apps – send a notification if you look at porn to your buddy –

B) Problem is he also struggles – tempted

C) Send it to your wife. Send it to someone you know that has victory

1) Flee by Pursuing – aggressively – righteousness....

Draw near to God and He will draw near to You!

A) This is such an incredible promise. – God is the rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

B) He rewards us with more of Himself!

C) More of Jesus – that is what I need!

D) Draw near to God.

Moses on Mount Sinai – draws near – God can I see your glory?

A) Comes down – his face is shining!

B) More God – more grace – more strength!

C) Pursue Him with a passion.

How should we respond to God's Grace?

A) **#4 Repent of your sin!** – Repent = to change your mind and to change your direction.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

B) BEING REAL ABOUT YOUR SIN!

C) 1 John 1:9 Confess your sin – Confess = to say the same as.

D) Not making light of my sin – not belittling it – not rationalizing it – well, did that because – she did this.

1) I REALLY didn't have a choice

E) Yes I did that but – **I know that God is gracious – he will forgive me.**

1) WRONG ATTITUDE

WE Need to see sin for what it is – Offensive to God! FACT THAT my sin put Jesus on the cross

A) That beating – the nails – the Crown of thorns

B) **Being separated from his Father** – Why forsaken ME..... heart burst - that was all on me.

C) **That is Sobering:** I hate hearing people make light about their sin –

1) Joking or when telling testimony – like those were the good old days.

D) No – James is saying – we need to take sin seriously. Quit laughing – start mourning

1) Own it – admit – my hands are dirty.

E) **Admit – I can be so wishy washy in my faith – that is being double minded!**

1) Godly sorrow – leads to repentance – real change

How do we respond to Grace?

#1 Submit to God

#2 Resist the Devil

#3 Draw near to God

#4 Repent of sin – Get real about sin

#5 You treat others with Grace V.11-12

¹¹ 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. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

Don't speak evil of a Brother = Judging to condemn.

A) We studied this idea in our study of the Sermon on the Mount.

B) Remind you that James is not saying – Jesus was not saying that we shouldn't call sin sin. –

C) Not Tolerance – we are all sinners – it is ok

But the idea is Do not Judge to condemn. – Don't write someone off!

A) James says – don't go around speaking evil of a Brother – Don't label them in other words.

B) The Church is the only army that shoots their wounded.

C) **Sometimes we treat people like the lady in the Scarlet letter –**

1) Big A for adultery we label them or brand them.

D) Maybe we Don't do it literally but we do it in our minds

1) We do it in how we talk about them behind their backs –

E) James says: **Don't do that – Who are you to Judge?**

1) God is the Judge – He is the one who knows everything.

You want God to air your dirty laundry?

A) How would you feel today if – I said: God sent me an email last night

B) **Interesting file: Dirty laundry** – 10 of you this week, your thought life, your actions – your motives – BIG SCREEN TODAY.

C) **USHERS ARE PASSING OUT THE POPCORN**

D) None of us would like that – there is not a one of us who would say I got nothing to hide –

1) Roll the tape & I want my popcorn with extra Butter!

E) Don't air people's dirty laundry

Paul 1 Corinthians 5:16 **"I don't want to know any man after the flesh."**

A) New Creation in Christ.

B) Paul was interesting in only two things: Are you in Christ – Saved

1) Or are you not in Christ – Lost – going to Hell.

C) **IN Christ? – cool** – I don't need to worry – God is going to complete the work he has begun in you.

1) My Job is to pray – encourage – equip

If you are not saved! – I have work to do – trying to convince you of your need of a Savior.

A) Listen: James put it well – There is one lawgiver who is able to save and to Destroy. – THAT IS GOD

B) God is the Judge – He is the one we stand before – You are in Christ or you are in Your sin.

C) **IN Christ – covered by his blood** – covered in the righteousness of Christ

1) Rewarded for how you lived for Jesus - what you did with the Resources given

D)Not in Christ – you are still in your sin –
separated from God.

**E)God the righteous Judge one question: WHAT
DID YOU DO WITH MY SON?**

1)Only thing that matters today!