

## James Chapter 4

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### KEY WORDS IN JAMES 4



Our reactions to normal life experiences such as disappointments and disagreements vary greatly. Often life can be perceived as unfair especially if we think we're getting the short end of the stick. It is tempting to blame others for what we feel we are lacking, or when we feel ourselves out of control.

### READ James 4:1-3 and study the following verses of scripture:

- 2 Samuel, Chapter 11 David and Bathsheba
- James 1:15
- Considering the above scriptures, prayerfully reflect on areas of your own life where lust may have the potential to spiral out of control...
- What initial actions can we take to avoid quarrels and conflicts?
  - What about lusts?
- What role does prayer play in our battle against sin?
- Consider David's prayer after his sin with Bathsheba: Psalm 51

## READ James 4:4-10

## GRACE AND HUMILITY

Grace and Humility are two characteristics or attributes of God. Characteristics expected in the life of the believer are a gentle and meek spirit. James states that “GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE – James’ notion of grace “includes the idea of the divine power which equips a [person] to live a moral life...”.<sup>8</sup>

Pride is the opposite of Humility and can lead to sin. Complete the following sentences that reveal James’ admonitions in the above verses.

- S\_\_\_\_\_ therefore to G\_\_\_\_\_.
- R\_\_\_\_\_ the D\_\_\_\_\_.
- C\_\_\_\_\_ your hands.
- P\_\_\_\_\_ your hearts.
- H\_\_\_\_\_ yourself in the presence of the Lord.

## READ James 4:11-12 and Matthew 7:1-3

- Judging others is a tendency common to most people. True/False?
  - Why do you believe this is so?
- What do the above scriptures say about judging one another?
  - List ways in which you have been judged by others:
  - What are ways in which we speak against others?
- How has this study in the book of James made you reconsider the things you say?
- What will you do differently?

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<sup>8</sup> Stringer, J. H. “Grace, Favour.” Ed. D. R. W. Wood et al. *New Bible dictionary* 1996 : 433. Print.

## READ James 4:13-17

## DO THE RIGHT THING

God has a way of humbling the proud and arrogant heart.

Write out the following scripture texts and commit them to memory:

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride and Haughty spirit

**Proverbs 19:21** Our Plans vs. the Lord's Purposes

- What are the desires of your heart?
- In what way have you committed your desires to the Lord?
- What has been your reaction when God's purposes overlay your own plans?

**Psalm 37:5** Committing Our Way to the Lord

**Psalm 37:23-24** The Steps of the Righteous

Take a moment now to renew your commitment to a life of grace and humility that come from an ongoing relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

If you've struggled with issues of lust – confess them now, and ask the Lord to help you to surrender your thoughts to the obedience of God's Word.

## *Six steps to walking humbly with God*

Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:29). To be like Christ, we must follow His example of humility. How can we learn to walk humbly with our God?

### **1. Remember who’s in charge—and praise Him!**

It’s hard keep things in perspective if we don’t remember who is Lord! **Psalm 90** is a good place to start.

### **2. Pray for a humble heart.**

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to the ways in which pride gets in the way of your relationships.

### **3. Pay more attention to your own faults than to the flaws of others.**

Confess your failings, but don’t obsess—move on!

### **4. Don’t hide behind your dignity—it’s pride’s favorite hiding place.**

Your real value lies in God’s eyes, not in the eyes of the world. Remember: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5).

### **5. Try not to watch yourself worship.**

Give *all* of your heart and mind to God.

### **6. Serve others.**

The fastest way to humility is the way Christ chose. “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...” (Mark 10:45).

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<sup>9</sup> Guideposts. Accessed online 11/22/2016 at <https://www.guideposts.org/positive-living/6-steps-to-walking-humbly-with-god>