

October 25, 2026
Sea Change Church
Storm Proof: A Study in James
S2E3 We must be brought low, before we are lifted Up

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James 4:7-10

[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.

Key Words: Obedience, Repentance, GOSPEL

Big Idea: God commands us to obedience. We repent from sin and turn to Jesus.

1. Submit to God

Vs. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God.

- James commands his audience and us to “submit to God”

○ Greek Word: ὑποτάσσω

To submit, subject oneself, place oneself under another's authority,

- Hebrew: sha-CHAH: To bow down, prostrate oneself, or worship.
- God's laws are beautiful they bring liberty. James quote **James 1:25** — “**The perfect law, the law of liberty.**” (ESV)
- **James 2:12** — “**So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.**”
- Have you any specific memories of when you did one of his commands when you had no idea how to make things right with someone and it brought peace love union freedom? P.F. Chang's story
- But the world does not want to submit to God; as Frank Sinatra said I did my way !
- People's belief issue with God isn't intellectual but a hardening issue not wanting anyone to be Lord of their life and being told what to do
- Also they struggle with how can an all powerful loving God let bad things happen as I am sure you have heard and exclaimed in the movie legends of the fall with Brad Pitt
- I would have the scene from the movie but I don't want anyone to get distracted from the sermon
- Brad Pitt when brother dies
- Charlie at slo
- Have you heard things like this ? Unless God does this for me I won't submit to him but I am going to a better place

-psalm 2

- even apostate Israel in the old testament period during the book of Judges didn't want to submit to Yahweh their one God: **Judges 21:25 (ESV)**

- **“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” 300-450 years**
- some of James’s audience hasn’t submitted and is called to repent they were :
(.....:
- Not paying their workers matter fact some you owe me money on Venmo when we get together in a group setting
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- **Showing partiality to the rich and dishonoring the poor.**
- **Failing to care for the needy.**
- **Failing to control their tongues.**
- **Harboring envy and selfish ambition.**
- **Fighting and quarreling with one another.**
- **Coveting what others had.**
- **Praying with selfish motives.**
- **Pursuing friendship with the world.**
- **Living in pride and arrogance.**
- **Speaking evil against and judging one another.**
- **Boasting about their plans without acknowledging God’s will.**
- **Knowing the good they ought to do but failing to do it.**
- **Withholding wages from their workers.**
- **Living in luxury while others suffered.**
- **Oppressing and condemning the righteous.**
- **Grumbling against one another.**
- **Failing to practice truthful, straightforward speech.**
- **Wandering from the truth.**
- sin vs submit: Lawlessness — ἀνομία (anomia): living as though God's will and commands do not govern us.
- “Self is the great antichrist and anti-God in the world, that sets up itself above all that is called God. Stephen Charnock
- true believers want to submit to God, but they don’t do it perfectly
- only one man submitted perfectly to God to attain righteousness
- if we put our faith in Jesus, the God man, our lack of submission is transferred to him, and his righteousness is transferred to us

2. Resist the Devil

Vs. 7b Resist the devil, and he will flee from you

- 1 Peter 5:8–9 “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him
- The Devil has methods: Temptation, Deception, Accusation, Division:
- We are called to resist: The word can describe withstanding an military opponent or holding one's ground against opposition
- We don’t have to focus on scary evil devil dark things but the more we submit to god and his ways and commands and character the less influence and power the

devil has. Every battle says is not a flesh and bud, but a spiritual one and the more we walk in the light as he is in the light, the more we love righteousness the more we walk in love more territory, gets taken in our heart and in our sphere of influence in this community city and world, but

- Sin makes it hard to resist. Missing the mark — ἁμαρτία (hamartia): sin, failure to do what is right, falling short of God's will.
- Even Adam and Eve pre-fall fell to the deceptions of the devil us after the fall or even more vulnerable to his lies and temptations
- And for those in this congregation and online who truly love Jesus, part of the ways that he wore against us is lying to his children that we are not God's children, even though we fail that he is punishing us cause he's angry and a vindictive way rather than disciplining us for our good in his glory as a son and a daughter, which is a totally different position and identity and orientation
- Only Jesus resisted the devil
- When we receive the Holy Spirit, he gives us the ability to resist the devil

3. Draw near to God, and he will not flee from you. V 8

- We draw near through repentance : V9 **Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**
- **Bruce torr white stuff**
- **Mom scratch inflection she had to clean**
- **Ot roots: two-part structure: Clean hands: What you do — your actions, conduct, and treatment of others.**
- **A pure heart: What you desire, love, worship, and trust.**
- **Ot priests wash daily as came near to god so daily our life is repentence turninf from as we draw near to god**
- We draw near through grieving our sin: . **V10 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.**
- **He is a jealous god a personal god**
- We should not tolerate sin and get used to it but mourn it and wrestle it. Romans 7:14- describes this reality.
- We draw near through humility. **V10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.**
- **Day of atonement and Jesus but day of atonement shedding of blood and no resurrection. But Jesus rose from the grave and ascended up to the father in the heavenly places, and he promises if you put your trust faith and hope in him alone for your salvation as the perfect righteous one that he will become your righteousness, and you will be raised presently through being saved and born again and God will cleanse you like promise in Ezekiel 36 with clean water on the inside**
- The gospel ending: we are brought low so he can raise us up but only in himself!

Practical Takeaway: Grieve Your Sin: Stop excusing or minimizing sin and learn to take it seriously because it grieves God. But know Jesus is always is ready to hear your confession.

Matthew 5:17 (ESV):

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

Passive

Galatians 3:13 (ESV):

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree’—”

Faith Philippians 3:9 (ESV):

“and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—”