

**Our text begins with a conjunction, which is a word that connects two thoughts. Examples: Genesis 6:5-8, Psalm 138:6, James 4:6a**

Up to this point (C4), James has scolded and rebuked the scattered believers of his day for fighting among themselves, for being selfish and self-serving, for praying with carnal motives, and for casting God aside for the love of the world. Last time, we ended in (V5), which is a verse that is difficult to understand...

"Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, the spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?"

First, we know that the scriptures do not say anything in vain, there is nothing in God's Word that is of no use or to no purpose! But what spirit is James speaking of?

Last time, I said that James was referring to the many instances in the Word that speak of our fallen sinful nature, and our carnal spirits lusting to envy. But after further study, I am not so sure...

Was James asking them, "Does the Holy Spirit which dwells in us provoke us to lust, or cause us to envy and sin?" NO!

Was James telling them, you are so full of envy and contention, therefore understand that you are not being led or ruled by the Spirit of God, for LUST and ENVY are NOT the fruit of the Holy Spirit but works of the flesh... By behaving this way, you're grieving the Spirit of God!

And there's this final thought, from Galatians 5:17: Quote.

(V5), is James teaching us that the Spirit of God zealously yearns in us with divine jealousy to turn us from our sins, our carnal spirits, and the world to Christ?

I think each position has merit, and I can also tell you that many excellent commentators are puzzled by this passage!

We'll just leave it here!

**Now as we continue, (4:6), James, having reproved them for their sins, he now calls them to repent and return to God.**

I love so much how this verse begins... with this happy conjunction and the words following. James wrote: You've sinned "terribly" children of God...

"BUT He (that is, God) giveth more grace". I cannot help but think of another scripture: Romans 5:20-21

Sometimes we fall into sin (and sometimes to our shame, we sin and KNOW that we are sinning); pride blinds us to our sins and causes us to resist God rather than submitting to Him... Our pride keeps us from acknowledging and forsaking our sins, and most importantly, from confessing our sins!

We sin against our husband or wife, father or mother, brother or sister, friend or neighbor, or we sin in our minds and thoughts, which causes us to say and do outwardly sinful things... and when we come to ourselves, we think...

"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" I don't deserve your grace, mercy, and forgiveness!

No, you don't, nor do I. But NEVER FORGET, dear souls, when we, do sin and come to ourselves and the throne of grace in repentance and contrition... God gives MORE GRACE! Romans 5:9-10,15,17,20, 6:1-2.

James having rebuked and scolded them for their sins, now lovingly tells them... James 4:6

**NO GRACE is given to the proud! If you RESIST GOD in your pride and arrogance, God will resist you, and His resistance is far greater than yours!**

You don't want God opposing you, thrusting you from His presence, setting Himself in battle array against you! 1 Kings 21:25-29

God gives grace to the contrite, the lowly, the humble, THIS is how you return to God from your sins, in repentance and humility! But no grace will be given to the proud, the arrogant, the impenitent! James 4:10

Psalm 138:6, Proverbs 3:34, Isaiah 57:15, 1 Peter 5:5-7

**You have sinned... "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord!"**

But they had an adversary to contend with, the devil would RESIST THEM and do his worst to stop them from returning to God. He was their tireless adversary. Never forget that the devil is YOUR ADVERSARY!

He wants you to sin, fight, lust, envy, hate your brother, and love the world; he is going to tempt and influence you to sin, have a bad attitude, think wicked thoughts, and spew out hurtful and wicked words!

There's only one way to RESIST the devil child of God, by humble and obedient submission to God and His Word! But if you hold on to your sinful pride against God, He will resist you!

James 4:7: "Submit (humble) yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." 1 Peter 5:8-10

You cannot resist the devil in "your own" strength, you need GRACE and strength from God if you would RESIST the devil!

Ephesians 6:10-12

In James 4:8-10, he continued to help them in their godly resistance of Satan, and to point them back to God!

**"Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you." Zechariah 1:1-4**

To "Draw Nigh" means to come close ... but how do you DRAW NIGH to God? It is NOT POSSIBLE to those who are not in Christ! In Adam, we were cast out of God's presence, but in Christ, we may come to God, we have the privilege of ACCESS to God!

Ephesians 2:11-13, Romans 5:1-2

How MUCH do you avail yourself of this grace and privilege of "drawing nigh" to God and communing with Him? This should be a constant in us!

Psalm 34:18, 73:25-28, 145:18

**"Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; purify your hearts, ye double-minded."**

Your hands are indicative of your outward life; what you do, and your heart is indicative of what and who you are within! If your hands would be cleansed from sin, your hearts must be purified by the Word!

Isaiah 1:13-20, 59:1-3, 2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 John 3:1-3

A Christian does not give half his heart to Christ and the other half to the world! A Christian does not have "a heart and a heart".

1 Kings 18:21, Matthew 6:24, James 1:8. Lord willing, we will take up James 4:9 and following, on Wednesday.

**God continues to give us more grace, He forgives us when we've sinned against Him, where sin abounds, grace abounds much more! 1**

**John 1:9**

But God gives no grace to the proud! Child of God: Don't RESIST God and His revealed will, RESIST the devil and his ill will! Humbly SUBMIT yourself to God, draw nigh to God, confess your sins, cleanse your hands and your heart, and fix your wholehearted love upon Christ, and Christ alone!