

Being God's Servant Cures Worldliness:

[2-24-13]

Text: James 4:1-10

4 Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? ² You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet^[a] you do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴ Adulterers and^[b] adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? ⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”^[c] 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.

Intro: All Christians are to be God's servants.

- a. James 1:1- “James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”
- b. “Bondservant- “one who gives themselves up to another's will to the disregard of one's own interest.” [a servant]
- c. Complete devotion to God, His word, and His will. [It is not being sinless, but being dedicated and making everything else in our life secondary in your relationship with God.
- d. How can I as a Christian learn to be a true servant of God?
- e. Three statements from James 4 teach us how to become God's faithful servant.

1. Submit To God[James 4:7a}

- a. Submit- “to rank under, subject oneself to obey, unconditional surrender”

- b. James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5-6- idea of submitting to God is that of unconditional surrender to the Lord's will.

James 4:6 – But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud,

But gives grace to the humble.”^[1]

1 Peter 5:5-6: Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud,

But gives grace to the humble.”^{[a]6} Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

- c. It is impossible to submit both to God and the devil at the same time.

Matthew 6:24; James 4:4] [There is no middle ground- straddling the fence.

Matthew 6:24 – ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

James 4:4 - Adulterers and^[a] adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

2. Resist The Devil [James 4:7b]

- a. Resist- to set against, to withstand, oppose, a military term of manning the defenses and standing against Satan.

- b. Just as God is constantly opposing the proud in James 4:6, we are to continuously stand against the devil and his schemes. [Ephesians 4:27; Ephesians 6:10-11; 1 Peter 5:8-10]

Ephesians 4:27 – **nor give place to the devil.**

Ephesians 6:10-11: **Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil**

1 Peter 5:8-10: **Be sober, be vigilant; because^[a] your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are**

experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰ But may^[b] the God of all grace, who called us^[c] to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.

- c. The devil will flee from you. [1 Corinthians 10:13]

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

3. Draw Near To God [James 4:8]

- a. The idea of draw near to God is to spend time with God in prayer, studying His word, regular worship with other Christians. [Songs: O To Be Like Thee; Nearer My God To Thee.]

- b. 2 Chronicles 15:1-2

Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. ² And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD *is* with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you

- c. "'cleanse your hands you sinners"[Isaiah 1:16]

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;

Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.

Cease to do evil,

- d. "purify your hearts" [1 John 3:2-3]

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- e. "you double-minded" [James 1:8]

he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- f. James 4:9-need for repentance

4. Humble Yourselves Before God [James 4:10]

- a. Humility cures worldliness.

b. It is when we empty ourselves of pride, and become humble servants that we can be useful for the Lord. [Psalm 34:18]

The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart,
And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

c. Submitting to God's word leads us to become His faithful servants.
[Psalm 51:17]

The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.

Conclusion: Galatians 3:26-27-Then after being baptized be a faithful servant of God. Are you a faithful servant of God putting Him first in your life? Submit yourselves to God; draw near to God, and humble yourself before God.

Galatians 3:26-27 - For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ