

TITLE: James (Lesson 21)

TEXT: James 4:7-10

INTRO: "The old-time preachers used to urge us to 'keep short accounts with God.' That is, the moment the Holy Spirit convicts us of something, we should confess it and seek cleansing (I John 7-10). That is good advice." *John Phillips*

I. (vs. 7) Submit yourself to God.

A. What does it mean to submit to God?

NOTE: "Submit yourselves" in the Greek means "to arrange under, to subordinate, to subject one's self, to obey. See vs. 6b and I Pet 5:5 Jesus submitted when 12 in Lk. 2:51.

1. Actively obey Him and submit to His control.

NOTE: "Unconditional surrender is the only way to complete victory." *Warren Wiersbe*

2. Yield your will as Jesus did: "not my will, but thine, be done."

B. How do we submit to God?

1. Say no to the enemy!

NOTE: James 1:5-8; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 4:26-27; I John 4:4

2. Battle in His strength.

NOTE: John 16:33; I John 5:4-5 Our safety is dependant upon our nearness to Christ.

II. (vs. 8-9) Draw near to God.

NOTE: Heb. 10:19-23 Strengthen your friendship with Christ. Be practical!

A. "Cleanse your hands, ye sinners" (actions and behavior)

B. "purify your hearts, ye double minded." (thoughts and motives)

NOTE: Ps. 119:9-11; I Pet. 1:22; I John 3:2-3

C. "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness." (awareness of your condition)

NOTE: God is God and I am not. We need to **turn away** from some things. Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers in 2 Cor. 7:10 that "godly sorrow worketh repentance".

1. Sin is a **serious problem** and not to be taken lightly!

NOTE: Ps. 34:18; 51:17

III. (vs. 10) Humble yourself before God.

NOTE: vs. 6 God's grace lifts us up when we humble ourselves before Him.

A. Recognize our desperate need for God.

1. We are in spiritual peril!

NOTE: "The only reason we do not weep is that we are so insensitive to the horror of our sin, so ignorant of its consequences, and so careless about the holiness of God." *JP*

2. We should be under Holy Spirit *conviction* for our sin.

NOTE: "Humble yourselves" in the Greek means "to make low, devoid of all haughtiness". Prov. 10:23a; 14:9a; Luke 18:9-14

B. Acknowledge our worth comes from God alone.

NOTE: Ps. 40:1-3

CONCLUSION: Peace with God, peace within ourselves and peace with each other.