

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

April 24, 2022

James: A Faith That Works

10 Commands for the Proud (James 4:1-17)

Much of the message of the New Testament is concerning the contrast between our human instinct to put faith in ourselves and the need to lay down this instinct and instead put our faith in God. The conflict between these two ideas is the focus of James chapter four. In the first and last parts of this chapter, James discusses signs that show we are filled with selfish pride (i.e., that we are putting faith in ourselves). In the midst of these signs, James offers a series of instructions on how we can overcome pride and instead put our faith in God. Let's examine these two ideas this morning.

Signs of Pride / Faith in Self (1-6; 11-16)

Quarrels and fights (1-2) – Conflict within the body of Christ is much more likely to occur when individuals are focused on themselves and their own desires rather than looking out for the best interest of others (**Phil 2:1-4**). This stands in direct contrast to the climate of “peace” required for a “harvest of righteousness” as presented by James at the end of his previous discussion on the tongue (**3:18**).

Murder (or any sin) that comes from selfish desires (2) – Our pride can ultimately give birth to sin that is driven by our desire for things that we want but do not have.

Unwilling to ask God (2) – We can feel so self-sufficient that we do not even recognize the need to ask God for things in prayer.

Asking for selfish reasons (3) – We ask for things in prayer, but do it with the wrong motivations (i.e., to fulfill our selfish passions; **Luke 15:11-16**).

Friendship with the world (4) - James describes this as “adulterous” and that those who choose the world have “enmity with God.”

Speaking evil against another / Judging a neighbor (11-12) – This points back to James’ previous discussion about the “royal law” (**2:8; Lev 19:18**). When we do this, we are putting ourselves in the position of God.

Boasting about oneself and the future (13-16) – It is “arrogance” for us to believe we are so much in control that we are confident about the future.

Blessed
ARE THOSE
WHO HAVE NOT
seen Him
AND YET
believe

JOHN 20:29

*“Oh, Magnify the Lord
with me, and let us exalt
His name together.”*

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upcoming sermon and
bible class topics

WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM,
POOR AS I AM?
IF I WERE A SHEPHERD,
I WOULD GIVE HIM A LAMB.
IF I WERE A WISE MAN,
I WOULD DO MY PART.
BUT WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?
I WILL GIVE HIM MY HEART.

10 Commands for the Proud (7-10) - James offers 10 imperatives for how to lay down the instinct to be filled with selfish pride and instead put our faith in God.

1. _____ (7)

This is an immediate response to the quote from **Proverbs 3:34** in verse 6. Since God “opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble,” we should choose to surrender our own desires and submit to God’s will for our lives.

2. _____ (7)

Satan uses our selfish desires to lure us into sin (**1:14-15**). God has promised that He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear (**1 Cor 10:13**) so that with the help of His Holy Spirit (**Rom 8:13**) we can resist the devil and overcome temptation.

3. _____ (8) 5. _____ (8)

4. _____ (8)

James tells us to get close to God and allow Him to transform our conduct and our hearts (**Romans 12:2**). How do we do this?

6. _____ (9) 8. _____ (9)

7. _____ (9) 9. _____ (9)

All of these get at the fundamental idea that in order to seek and accept God, we MUST first recognize our own spiritual poverty (**Matthew 5:3-4**).

10. _____ (10)

If we truly understand our spiritual poverty, then this should give us a fresh perspective on who we are compared to the almighty creator of the universe. If we have the right perspective, then God promises that He will lift us up (**Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Peter 5:6**)

You Have been Warned (17)

PRAYER LIST

- **Nick Phifer**, a family friend of the Reeds, has had a relapse of leukemia but is responding well to treatment.
- **Isabel Johnson** is home, struggling with her appetite.
- Mamie Hamilton’s son **Kendall** is recovering from eye surgery
- **Faye Waller** is in Ahava Healthcare in Clarksville
- **James Craig**, Faye Head’s brother, is home undergoing rehab
- **Ethan Pennington**, Tammy’s cousin, has brain cancer
- Continue to pray for **Delores Coleman, Rosemary Douglas, Gaynell Walker, Rebecca Brown, Kristine Garrett, John Hayes, Ann Reed, and Jim Sims**

SERVING TODAY (April 24, 2022)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: J. Buchanan
Prayer: J. Gupton

WORSHIP

Read: M. Reed
Wait On Table: E. Walker
Serve: J. Demonbreun, S. Shatto
Prayer: R. Mayo