

**I. Introduction: Would James be a popular preacher in our day?**

**II. Submit to God. v. 7a**

- A. The essence of sin is setting your will over God's. Isa. 53:6 Proverbs 3:5-6
- B. Your submission to God is comprehensive. Mt. 6:10
  - 1. Humbly submit your will to His commands. Jo. 14:15 1 Jo. 5:3 Ps. 119:97,60,165
  - 2. Humbly submit to those He has placed in authority over you. Rom. 13:1-7 Eph. 5:22-6:8 Heb. 13:17 1 Peter 2:13-20 3:1-6
  - 3. Humbly submit your mind to the teaching of His Word. 2 Tim. 3:16 2 Pet. 1:21 2 Co. 10:5 Isa. 40:8
  - 4. Humbly submit to God's providential dealings in your life. 4:13-17 Jonah 4:9 Job 1:21 Gen. 50:20 Ro. 8:28 Heb. 12:4ff
  - 5. Humbly submit to God's way of salvation. Rom. 10:3,9 Phil. 3:7-9 John 3:16 Eph. 2:8-9 Acts 17:30
- C. Jesus and submission.
  - 1. Jesus subjected Himself to His earthly parents. Luke 2:51
  - 2. Jesus perfectly submitted to His Father's will. Mt. 26:39 John 6:38
  - 3. Now all things are in subjection to Him. 1 Cor. 15:27-28
  - 4. Because you are in Christ, you have the ability and the desire to submit to God. 1:18,21 Ro. 8:7-9 2 Cor. 5:17

**III. Resist the devil. v. 7b**

- A. How does the devil operate? 1 Pe. 5:9-10 1 Jo. 5:19 2 Cor. 2:11 Gen. 3:1ff
  - 1. He is a liar and a murderer. John 8:44 Eph. 4:26
  - 2. He promotes error. 2 Cor. 11:13-15
  - 3. He controls the world system. 4:4 1 Jo. 5:19 Eph. 2:2
  - 4. He is the accuser of the brethren. Rev. 12:10
- B. How do you resist Him? Eph. 6:10-12
  - 1. Don't become obsessed with extra-biblical methods of resistance.
  - 2. Put on the armor of God. Eph. 6:10-18
  - 3. Resist the devil through God's Word and prayer. Mt. 4:1ff
  - 4. Resist him by submitting to God and drawing near to Him.
- C. Jesus and resistance.
  - 1. Jesus successfully resisted and crushed the devil. Mt. 4:1ff Gen. 3:15
  - 2. Jesus has set us free from Satan's bondage. John 12:31-32 Luke 10:21-22
  - 3. Because Jesus has defeated Satan, we are able to resist. Ro. 8:37ff 16:20

**IV. Draw near to God. v. 8a**

- A. Draw near through Jesus.
  - 1. Jesus regularly drew near to the Father in prayer. Heb. 5:7 Mt. 26:39ff
  - 2. We who were far from God (because of our sin) are able to draw near to God because of Christ. 1 Pe. 3:18 Eph. 2:12-14 Heb. 10:19-20 7:19 Isa. 59:2
  - 3. There is no other way to get close to God. John 14:6
  - 4. Because we have a new nature, we earnestly desire to be near Him. John 6:37,44

**B. How can you draw near to God?**

1. Draw near through private prayer, praise and Bible reading. Hebrews 10:21-22
2. Draw near to God through heartfelt repentance. v. 8b-9 Lu. 15:18-19 Hos. 12:6
3. Draw near to God through corporate worship, including communion.
4. Draw near to God by serving and obeying Him. Mal. 3:7ff
5. Draw near to God sincerely, reverently and thankfully. Isa. 29:13 58:2 Dt. 4:7

**C. You have a wonderful promise that He will draw near to you. Ps. 145:18**

1. God graciously invites all, even sinners, to draw near to Him. Isa. 55:1-3,6-7  
Zech. 1:3 Mal. 3:7 Mt. 11:28-30 Luke 15:20 2 Chron. 15:4
2. How does God draw near to you? Mt. 28:20 Eph. 3:14ff Isa. 55:1-2 Jer. 17:7-8
3. Those who refuse to draw near will experience everlasting separation from God.  
Psalm 73:27 Mt. 7:23 25:41

**V. Cleanse and purify yourselves. v. 8b Mt. 5:8**

**A. You are cleansed and purified by the work of Jesus Christ.**

1. You are incapable of purifying yourselves. 4:4 1:8 Is. 64:6 Jer. 13:23 Eph. 2:1ff
2. Jesus is the Pure One who has the right to draw near to God. Ps. 24:3-4
3. Christ's work of cleansing us by His blood fulfills what the Old Covenant ceremonies typified. Heb. 9:13-14,22-28 10:10 1 Jo. 1:7-10 Mal. 3:5

**B. You also have a duty to actively and wholeheartedly work at becoming in reality what Christ has already made you positionally. 1:27 I Jo. 3:3 Titus 2:14 1 Pe. 1:22**

1. Take radical action to separate yourself from that which corrupts. Isa. 1:16  
2 Tim. 2:22 Mt. 5:29-30 Rom. 12:1-2 Pr. 4:23
2. Pursue that which is pure in your thoughts and deeds. Isa. 1:17 Phil. 4:8-9
3. Turn in faith and repentance to God for cleansing. Is. 1:18 1 Tim. 2:8
4. Love one another. 1 Pe. 1:22

**VI. Turn (repent) with sorrow over your sin. v. 9**

**A. Why should you be miserable, mourn and weep? 5:1 Mt. 5:4 Lu. 6:21,25 Ps. 6:6**

1. You should grieve over sin! 4:1-4 Ro. 7:24 Ps. 119:136 Joel 2:12f Acts 20:31
2. You cannot be truly converted unless you have sorrowed over your sin. Acts 2:37
3. What place do such emotions have in the church today?
4. How often do Christians today hear a call to grieve over sin? Mt. 4:17 Jer 6:14
5. Many need to heed James' call to turn laughter into mourning and joy to gloom.
6. James is not saying that there is never an appropriate time for joy and gladness.  
Ecc. 3:4 Mt. 9:15 Lu. 7:34

**B. Jesus was a man of sorrows. Isa. 53:3**

1. He wept over sin and its effects. John 11:35 Luke 19:41 Heb. 5:7
2. He bore our sorrows on the cross. Isa. 53:4-6
3. He turns our weeping to joy. Isa. 61:1 40:1 25:5 Luke 4:19-19 Ps. 30:5 16:11

**VII. Conclusion: Humble yourself before God. v. 10,6 Mt. 18:4 23:12 Luke 14:11 18:14**

- A. God elevates those who bow before Him. 1 Pe. 5:6 Luke 1:52 Ps. 113:7-8 1 Sa. 2:8
- B. Jesus was humbled before He was exalted. Heb. 12:1f Phil. 2:5-11

### **Discussion questions**

- 1. How does this passage correct some contemporary views of preaching?**
- 2. How does this passage relate to its preceding context (about quarreling)?**
- 3. What does it mean to submit yourself to God?**

**Is there some area of your life in which you are refusing to submit to Him?**

- 4. How do you resist the devil?**
- 5. How can sinners like us draw near to God?**
- 6. How does God draw near to us?**
- 7. What is God's part and our part in cleansing and purifying us?**
- 8. Why should we be miserable mourn and weep?**
- 9. Where is Jesus seen in this passage?**