

# How to Stop Being a Friend of the World

## James 4 :7-10

### James 4:7–10 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

### Introduction

On April 3rd, 1965 legendary radio host issued a warning to America. In this warning, he detailed what he thought the devil should do if the devil wanted to keep destroying the United States.

“If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I’d want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I’d have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn’t be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree —

Thee. So I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first — I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.

To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...

And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the devil I'd soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions

— just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the devil I'd take from those who have, and give to those who want until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.

And what do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there

is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing.”

Paul Harvey, good day.

There is no doubt that our country is in the battle for her life. There are evil forces that have orchestrated themselves against us in such a way that it cannot be explained other than with the words “demonic and Satanic”. And apart from divine intervention and the cessation of God's judgment that has already started, America is on a path to utter and complete annihilation. Our rejection of the Authority of God and an unwillingness to submit to Him as a nation and a culture will seal our fate. As so many pagan nations have gone, so we are going.

But even now a large majority of the churches in America are dead or dying. It's preachers are unskilled in the Word and cowards to preach the whole counsel of God.

A 2021 [study](#) from Lifeway Research, based on data from three-dozen denominations, found that 4,500 churches closed in 2019, while only 3,000 were started. .... median worship attendance for churches in the U.S. [dropped](#) from 137 people to 65 people over the past two decades. <https://religionnews.com/2022/03/15/thousands-of-churches-close-every-year-what-will-happen-to-their-buildings/>

[thousands-of-churches-close-every-year-what-will-happen-to-their-buildings/](https://religionnews.com/2022/03/15/thousands-of-churches-close-every-year-what-will-happen-to-their-buildings/)

... Religious membership was stable throughout the 20th century but fell from 70% in 2000 to 47% in 2020

**49% of U.S. Protestant pastors say they frequently hear members of their congregation repeating conspiracy theories**

<https://research.lifeway.com/2022/01/05/22-vital-stats-for-ministry-in-2022/>

Percentage may be higher here at our church, because we hear everything from chemtrails to Bigfoot.

The reason why that we have the decline in America, and in the churches is because the people have been seduced by the world system that is ran by the devil himself.

1 John 5:19 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> We know that we are of God, and the whole world **lies** *under the sway of the wicked one.*

1 John 5:19 (LSB)

19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

1 John 5:19 (KJV 1900)

. <sup>19</sup> *And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*

**ὁ πονηρός:** (a title for the Devil, literally ‘the evil one’) the one who is essentially evil or in a sense personifies evil—‘the Evil One, He who is evil.’ ἀλλὰ ρύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ ‘but rescue us from the Evil One’ Mt 6:13.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 145). United Bible Societies.

**lies**

**κεῖμαι<sup>c</sup>; ἐπίκειμαι<sup>e</sup>; ἀπόκειμαι<sup>b</sup>:** to exist, with the implication of having been established and thus having continuity and purpose—‘to exist, to exist for, to be set.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 156). United Bible Societies.

The devil has the influence in the world. He as created over the years major strongholds that have entrapped millions outside the church and inside the church.

The moral and spiritual decline of America and the church is because of the moral and spiritual decline of the people in America and the Church.

These institution don't fail on there own.

They don't grow corrupt on there own.

They fail and grow corrupt because people fail and get corrupted.

The values, commitments, morals, and spiritual Submission to God that was once considered a non-negotiable has been laid on the chopping block for the last few decades.

More and more are willing to trade these commitments for worldly success, worldly pleasure and worldly popularity.

Less and less of Christians are willing to be persecuted for the name of Christ and are willing to give in the pressure of compromise.

The key strategic means by which the devil seduces the church is the temptation of cultural compromise. I.e. to make them more like the world.

As Robert P. Jones, describes the challenge facing Conservative Christians:

“What’s at stake isn’t just the outcome of political debates. Conservative religious groups’ very future hinges on how willing they are to navigate from the margins toward the new mainstream... To move away from strong (conservative values) would spark a profound identity crisis and risk losing support from their current—albeit aging—support base. Refusing

to reevaluate, on the other hand, may relegate conservative religious groups into cultural irrelevancy and continued decline, as more and more young people leave church behind.<sup>12</sup>

Lutzer, Erwin W.. We Will Not Be Silenced: Responding Courageously to Our Culture's Assault on Christianity (p. 33). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

This strategy that is being proposed to migrate to the new mainstream, which is a compromise of conservative values. He said to be the way to preserve the conservative religious groups. However, this is a exact opposite of what God's word says. If you want to preserve a conservative religious group, you have to stay committed to the veracity of the word of God, and not compromise with the world. Compromise with the world in any conservative Bible believing religious group will destroy it. And as Christians men and women who believe the word of God, and believe that it should be obeyed, to compromise with the world is to make yourself a friend of the world, and an enemy of God.

This has been white warning of James in chapter 4

**verse 4,**

“.....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.”

James 4:4 (LSB)

4 hostility toward God?

**enmity**— —

James the believers he is writing to that some are already showing that they are friends with there world by how they are thinking and acting.

1. They try to get what they want by sinful fleshly methods.

James 4:1–3 (NKJV)

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? <sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war.

2. The don't pray correctly because they have been influenced by the worlds desire for pleasure

2b....Yet 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.

### 3. The show that their affection and love is for the world.

James 4:4 (NKJV)

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! .... They are morally and spiritual unfaithful to God.

### 4. They are prideful and self sufficient and self centered.

James 4:6 (NKJV)

*“God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble.”*

So James calls them to Repentance. To reject the call and the lure of the Word and to Return to faithfulness to their God. To leave the other lover and come back to Christ. To Give your heart, soul, mind, and strength to the Lord and Him alone.

This is why it reads like this,

Since God Resist the Proud, the self centered,  
hedonist

v7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

This is not a text to be isolated but to be understood in the context of believers that need to be called back from the attraction of the world. To repent of there worldliness. To stop being seduced by the doctrines of demons. To stop listening to the sirens of this world system. To submit to God, his Word, his Lordship. To resist the devil now and forever. To become Biblically minded, Word saturated filled with the Holy Spirit and Prayer.  
James 4:7–10 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit A.Pass Imperative) to God.

**Therefore** Having diagnosed their selfish strife as a manifestation of worldliness and shown the seriousness of their condition, James at once calls for rectification. “Then” (*oun*, “therefore, consequently”) indicates that his injunctions are prompted by the condition just exposed. Having yielded to the world’s allurements, they had to be restored to the pathway of separation. They had to resume a right relation to God

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [James](#) (Revised Edition, p. 236). BMH Books.

### **1. submit (A.Pass Imperative) to God.**

The ten aorist imperatives in these verses constitute an urgent call to repentance to correct their blameworthy position before God. These imperatives, like curt military commands, demand incisive action. They reflect the seriousness with which James viewed their double-mindedness.

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [James](#) (Revised Edition, p. 236). BMH Books.

1. Submit

2. Resist

3. Draw near

4. Cleanse
5. Purify
6. Lament
7. Mourn.
8. Weep.
9. Turn your laughter to sorrow.
10. Humble yourselves.

**ὑποτάσσομαι; ὑποταγή, ἥς f; ὑπέικω:** to submit to the orders or directives of someone—‘to obey, to submit to, obedience, submission.’

ὑποτάσσομαι: δούλους ἰδίους δεσπότης ὑποτάσσεσθαι ‘slaves are to obey their masters’ Tt 2:9.

ὑποταγή: δοξάζοντες τὸν θεὸν ἐπὶ τῇ ὑποταγῇ τῆς ὁμολογίας ὑμῶν εἰς τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ Χριστοῦ ‘giving glory to God on account of your obedience to the gospel of Christ which you profess’ 2 Cor 9:13.

ὑπέικω: πείθεσθε τοῖς ἡγουμένοις ὑμῶν καὶ ὑπέικετε ‘obey your leaders and submit to them’ He 13:17.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 467). United Bible Societies.

primarily a military term meaning literally “to rank under.” The passive form indicates the submission is to be voluntary.

The verb is used frequently in the New Testament. Luke uses it of Jesus’ submission to His parents when He was a boy (Luke 2:51). Paul uses it to indicate a Christian’s responsibility to human government (Rom. 13:1), of a wife’s responsibility to

her husband (Eph. 5:21–24), and a slave’s to his master (Titus 2:9; cf. 1 Pet. 2:18).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1998). [James](#) (p. 204). Moody Press.

conveys a sense of urgency, demanding immediate compliance. The compound verb (*hupotagēte*), consisting of the preposition *hupo*, “under,” and *tassō*, “to order, place, station,” demands that they accept their proper station under God as their captain. The passive is to be understood in the sense of the middle, calling for an action that centers on ourselves. “It is an action that we must bring about ourselves as the Holy Spirit operates in us.” It is a call for their voluntary subordination to God and His will. God does not want forced obedience. Thus they must express their recognition of God as supreme in their lives. This subordination, so hard for the proud and self-reliant, is essential to cure their worldliness.

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [James](#) (Revised Edition, p. 236). BMH Books.

situation had to be rectified by their act of submitting themselves to God in total loyalty to Him.

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [James](#) (Revised Edition, p. 236). BMH Books.

## **1. submit (A.Pass Imperative) to God.**

Some might say, why submit? The answer...  
**HE'S GOD.**

He is the creator, the Lord, the King. The owner of everything. He is the law giver, and the Law enforcer and the Judge.

Acts 17:24–31 (NKJV)

<sup>24</sup> God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. <sup>25</sup> Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

<sup>26</sup> And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, <sup>27</sup> so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' <sup>29</sup> Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. <sup>30</sup> Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

<sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Romans 14:11–12 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> For it is written:

*“As I live, says the Lord,  
Every knee shall bow to Me,  
And every tongue shall confess to God.”*

<sup>12</sup> So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Chronicles 30:7–8 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the Lord God of their fathers, so that He gave them up to desolation, as you see. <sup>8</sup> Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers *were*, *but* yield yourselves to the Lord; and enter His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the Lord your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you.



Submission is a basic, fundamental, foundational element of Christianity. Being a Christian starts with submission.

The Gospel is not an offer to take or leave, it is a command to be obeyed.... Submitted to.

You are commanded to come.

You are commanded to believe

You are commanded to repent.

You are commanded to submit.

You are commanded to forsake.

You are commanded to deny yourself and take up your cross and follow him.

You are commanded to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

This is not an offer to be rejected. This is a command to be obeyed.

You can submit and live or not submit and die.

When God called his people out of Egypt and let them to Mt. Sinai, he did not give them 10 suggestions for your best life now. He gave them 10 commandments. He later said submit and

obey my law and you will live, disobey and don't submit and die.

When we obey and come to Christ in salvation, we are to submit to Him as Lord.

Romans 10:9–14 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, "*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*" <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. <sup>13</sup> For "*whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"

This wimpy gospel of easy believism with no requirement of submission of Jesus as Lord is a gospel that does not save, but lets you come just as I am and stay just as you are. There is no obedience to repentance, confession or submission to the Lord, just believe, ore

accept Jesus into your heart—not in Bible.

Here in our text

Jame is telling his readers, Submit to God and his word and the world and its word.

Repent of your unfaithfulness to God and turn back to Him

and Here's how.....

**2. Resist the devil** and he will flee from you.

**Resist the devil** Wholehearted submission to God is only possible as they resist God's archenemy. "Resist" (*antistēte*), composed of *anti*, "against," and the verb *histēmi*, "to stand," continues the military metaphor; as a definite act, they must take their stand in opposition to "the devil" as their true enemy. There is no middle ground.

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [James](#) (Revised Edition, p. 236). BMH Books.

There is no middle ground, no neutrality. As James has just made clear, "friendship with the world [Satan's domain] is hostility toward God. Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (4:4; cf. 1 John 2:15–17).

To stand with the Lord is to stand against everything sinful and worldly that formerly was appealing, corrupting, and enslaving

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1998). [James](#) (pp. 204–205). Moody Press.

The Greek term rendered “the devil” (*tō diabolō*) means “the slanderer” and gives a description of his principal activity. But James here simply thinks of him as God’s enemy and does not stress that activity. In the Septuagint, this Greek term is used almost uniformly to render the Hebrew term *Satan*. But the articular designation, in the context, makes it unmistakable that James thinks of the devil, the chief power of evil, as a person.<sup>89</sup> As God’s inveterate enemy, he is constantly engaged in seeking to subvert the allegiance of God’s people by leading them to self-centered and world-centered attitudes and activities. “Satan is the prime and most perfect *enemy of God*, the beginner and finisher of all *pride* leading to apostasy from the Supreme, to whom all things should be *submissive*.”

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [James](#) (Revised Edition, p. 237). BMH Books.

### **Ephesians 4:26–27 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> “*Be angry, and do not sin*”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, <sup>27</sup> nor give place to the devil.

### **1 Peter 5:8–9 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Satan seeks **to devour** believers in a number of ways. First, God may allow him to attack a believer directly. The story of Job's ordeal and the eventual triumph of his faith illustrates this well. In the New Testament, Peter himself experienced Satan's onslaught (Luke 22:31–34) as the enemy caused him to deny Christ three times (vv. 54–62). The Lord, however, used that incident to make his faith stronger and give him a greater ability to instruct others (cf. John 21:15–22). The apostle Paul also had to contend with assault from a demonic agent who led the attack of false teachers on the Corinthian church (2 Cor. 12:7–10). Some of the members of the church in Smyrna suffered as a result of satanic persecution (Rev. 2:10), and some in Thyatira experienced the painful consequences of demonic teaching in their church (Rev. 2:18–24). The fifth seal reveals the thousands killed by Satan through Antichrist during the Great Tribulation as pleading for divine justice to come speedily against

evil enemies (Rev. 6:9–11). Finally, God even uses Satan as the agent of punishment for those who profess to preach Christ but actually lead others astray with false doctrine (1 Tim. 1:18–20), and for those who are unwilling to repent of sin (1 Cor. 5:1–5).

More generally, Satan and his demons constantly mount the attack on individual believers through the ubiquitously sinful and alluring world system. John condensed the spiritual battle down to three points at which believers' fallen humanness is susceptible to temptation:

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15–17; cf. Acts 5:3)

believers—both the leaders and the members of the congregation—are vulnerable to Satan's attacks within the church. Paul instructed Timothy to choose well-qualified men as shepherds (1 Tim. 3:1–6), lest they be subject to “the snare of the devil” (v. 7).

Satan also seeks to destroy the church's unity, render its spiritual power ineffective, and confuse its purpose (cf. 1 Cor. 1:10–13; 6:1–6; 11:17–34; 14:20–38; Rev. 2–3).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2004). [1 Peter](#) (p. 284). Moody Publishers.

Contrary to what some teach, Scripture nowhere commands believers to attack the devil or demons with prayers or formulas, or to “bind the devil.” Those who foolishly engage in useless efforts to speak to Satan (who is not omnipresent anyway), or to command him, or to dismiss him or other demons are confused and wrong about their powers as Christians. Since the saints are not apostles of Christ, they have no authority over demons (cf. Matt. 10:1; Luke 9:1; 2 Cor. 12:12). Only Christ Himself, by dispatching a powerful holy angel, can bind Satan:

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. (Rev. 20:1–3)

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2004). [1 Peter](#) (p. 284). Moody Publishers.

## Ephesians 6:10–18 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; <sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

## Luke 4:1–14 (NKJV)



4 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

<sup>3</sup> And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

<sup>4</sup> But Jesus answered him, saying, “**It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’**”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

<sup>8</sup> And Jesus answered and said to him, “**Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’**”

<sup>9</sup> Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup> For it is written:

*‘He shall give His angels charge over you,*

*To keep you,*

<sup>11</sup> and,

*‘In their hands they shall bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”*

<sup>12</sup> And Jesus answered and said to him, **“It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ”**

<sup>13</sup> Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

Resist the devil and **he will flee from you.**

**φεύγω<sup>a</sup>; φυγή, ἦς** *f.* to move quickly from a point or area in order to avoid presumed danger or difficulty—‘to run away, to flee, flight.’

φεύγω<sup>a</sup>: τότε οἱ ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ φευγέτωσαν εἰς τὰ ὄρη **‘then those who are in Judea must run away to the hills’** Mt 24:16.

φυγή: προσεύχεσθε δὲ ἵνα μὴ γένηται ἡ φυγή ὑμῶν χειμῶνος **‘pray that your flight will not be in the winter’** or **‘... in the cold season’** Mt 24:20.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 189). United Bible Societies.

<sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.