

Mt Lebanon Church

Sunday School Lesson

7.20.2025

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Humility Before God

James 4: 1 – 10, 13 – 17

Let us start by answering these questions.

James 4: 1,....from whence comes wars, and fighting's among you?....come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?....

As we look at this passage of scripture, we come to learn that the first question is answered by the second question. The source of the conflicts within us comes from the worldly, selfish desires that we harbor within ourselves. It is these selfish desires that lead to coveting, fighting, and bickering, which results in our lack of seeking after God for that which is needed in our life. These desires create confusion, which leads to internal struggles and outward conflicts. These selfish desires which we choose not to control, lead to discord within the body of Christ, instead of bringing forth love and unity. When, as believers, we allow our worldly, selfish, lustful desires to control us, rather than submitting to the will of God, we create uncertainty within ourselves and with others.

The normal perspective in the world today is to identify with what we want out of life and make a plan to get it at any cost. The problem with this attitude is that it puts the focus of our lives upon ourselves instead of upon God. Success according to the world is defined by whether or not we get what we want out of life, because it is a success that is driven by envy and self-ambition. On the other hand, success in our life in Christ is our willing desire to trust in God to provide for all of our needs, no matter what the cost to our worldly way of life. This will help us to overcome the prideful lusts that war in our members and have a detrimental effect on the peace of Gods righteousness in our lives. For within the body of Christ the source of sinful pursuits is self. Therefore, we must:

Ephesians 4: 22 – 24,....put off concerning the former conversation of the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts....and be renewed in the spirit of your mind....and....put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness....

In order, to have humility before God, we must leave behind our former, sinful nature and embrace, through our salvation our new identity in Christ. This means discarding those sinful habits, thoughts, and behaviors that characterized our life before we accepted Gods saving grace. Therefore, every believer, is encouraged to actively participate in their own spiritual growth and faith, by rejecting and resisting our old sinful ways, and embracing the new life which we have received through Christ Jesus.

James 4: 2 – 4,....ye lust, and have not, ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain....ye have not, because ye ask not....ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts....know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God....whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God....

As believers, when we ask God for something, and we ask with selfish motives, seeking to fulfill our own desires rather than following after the will of God, then we are unlikely to receive those things which we have ask for. Therefore, we must examine our motives, especially when we pray, for the truth of our communication with God must be motivated by our desire to glorify God and follow after his purpose and plan for our life. So, we ask ourselves, are we motivated by a desire for the glory of God or are we motivated by personal gain. As believers, we must never prioritize worldly desires and personal values over Gods will, for in doing so we are bringing ourselves into opposition with God. Positioning ourselves with worldly values means rejecting Gods authority in our life, which ultimately leads to a spiritual separation from God. Therefore, we are commanded to live as an example of Gods love and truth, without allowing ourselves to become absorbed by those worldly values.

James 4: 5 – 10,....do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, the spirit that dwelleth within us lusteth to envy?....God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble....submit yourselves therefore to God....resist the devil, and he will flee from you....draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you....cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts, ye double minded....humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up....

As believers, we are called to recognize our dependence upon God, seeking his grace through humility. This allows us to show ourselves unto others as a reflection of Gods saving grace, and it shows our willingness to submit unto his will. In doing so, we will learn that we cannot outrun the grace of God, for he continues to give unto us the good that we have not earned. This in turn signifies our need to yield to the authority of God, all the while actively resisting the temptations of the devil. There is an ongoing spiritual battle in the life of every believer, and it is our life in Christ that offers unto us a pathway of victory through our submission and obedience to the truth of God's word. Therefore, recognizing Satan's tactics, and refusing to give into his lies will help us to stand firm in our faith. This pursuit requires an intentional effort and commitment, and God will respond to our desires through his promise to draw closer unto us as we draw closer unto him. As we humble ourselves unto God, we open ourselves up to his grace and to his favor, and in return he will exalt those who will humble themselves before him. This means that our spiritual growth, our increased favor with God, and the hope of our eternal life is with him in heaven. In this same manner Christ lived his life as an example to all of mankind.

Philippians 2: 5 – 9,....let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus....who, being in the form of God, though it not robbery to be equal with God....but made himself of no reputation....took upon him the form of a servant....he humbled himself....became obedient unto....the death of the cross....wherefore God....hath highly exalted him, and gave him a name which is above every other name....

Christ example unto us was a voluntary act of self-humbling, which he used to encourage humility and unity among the believers within the body of Christ, and also to give unto us a foundation of understanding which points us to the ultimate triumph of Christs redemptive work on the cross, where we are met with Gods exaltation in our life.

James 4: 13 – 17,....go to now, ye that say, today or tomorrow we will go....and buy and sell, and get gain....ye know not what shall be on the morrow....for what is your life....it is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away....ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that....but ye rejoice in your boastings....to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin....

As believers, we must recognize that our lives and our actions are ultimately dependent upon Gods will. Our humility and dependence upon Gods guidance is a most important aspect of our life in Christ. This means that God is in control of our lives, and our plans are subject unto his will, which is a reminder of his authority and our dependence unto him. Therefore, our humility helps us to recognize Gods authority in our life, and our submission unto him helps us in seeking after his guidance which comes by and through his indwelling Holy Spirit. Our dependence upon him acknowledges his permissions in our life, and our spiritual discernment of his will helps us to understand his direction for our life. It is our obedience to Gods word, according to the truth applied, that brings us into a life of humility before God.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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