

James 4:7
“Battling Our Enemy”

I. **James 4:7** – **“Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”**

A. **Therefore** = v.6 – submission is an act of humility.

1.) *He resists (sets Himself against) the proud (one who compares himself with others & lifts himself above them), but gives grace to the humble = that which is low & does not rise far from the ground = lowly – **Luke 18:9-14**.*

i.) **Prov. 3:34** – He scorns the scornful but gives grace to the humble; **6:16-17a** – God hates 6 things; 7 are an abomination to Him; #1 is a proud look; **21:4** – a haughty look, a proud heart and the plowing of the wicked are sin.

ii.) **Ps. 101:5b** – God won’t endure (tolerate) a haughty look and a proud heart; **138:6** – God regards the lowly but the proud He knows from afar = keeps His distance from = **Amos 3:3** – 2 can’t walk together unless they are agreed.

B. **Submit** (Gr.) = a military term describing the arranging of troops under the command of a leader. **Willing & humble submission to the authority of another = why we’re told to submit to God: it’s a willing act of humility & surrender to His command. Humility needs to be established before submission can take place.**

1.) Completely unnatural to submit. **Why?**

a.) We all want to lead (nobody wants to yield – 3:17) – Gen 3:16.

i.) *Drivers to each other; citizens to govt.; students to teachers; players to coaches; workers to bosses; children to parents; wives to husbands; husbands to God!*

b.) We all want to live how we choose = PRIDE – Is. 53:6; Matt. 16:24; Gal. 2:20; 5:24; 6:14.

i.) Submitting carries a negative connotation now, but God intended it as a beautiful act of surrender: willingly laying ourselves down for the service of another.

*****Memorial Day*****

ii.) When understood **Biblically**, submission creates a bridge b/w us & God by eliminating the barrier of pride: **the main reason we struggle with submitting to man is b/c we struggle in submitting to God!**

c.) We all want (demand) an explanation – Ps. 92:5-6; 1 Cor. 2:14.

2.) **What** should we submit to God?

a.) Everything! Thoughts, words, actions, hearts, future, circumstances, relationships, reactions, responses.

3.) **How** do we submit to God?

a.) His word – Ps. 119:9; Luke 11:28; John 14:15.

i.) *Until we submit to the authority of God's word, we'll never access the power of God's word* – Heb. 4:12.

b.) His wisdom – **Ps. 18:30**; Prov. 3:5-6.

i.) *Until we submit to God's wisdom, we'll continue to live by our own* – Prov. 14:12.

c.) His will – Jer. 29:11.

i.) *Until we submit to God's will, we'll continue replacing it with our own.*

d.) **Difficulty in all of these b/c His word isn't how we want to live; His wisdom isn't how we want to think & His will isn't where we want to go.**

e.) **Ps. 18:30** – “As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.”

C. **Resist** (Gr. = to stand against or oppose) the devil.

1.) **Why we struggle in opposing:**

a.) It's easier to give in.

b.) We want what he's offering more than God's standard of righteousness – Heb. 11:24-25.

c.) We resist in our own power; we haven't learned to submit.

i.) **“Before we can stand before satan we must bow before God.”** – Warren Wiersbe

ii.) *Until we submit to His authority & power we'll continue to experience the natural defeat of our flesh* – John 15:5.

4.) **How** do we resist/stand against/oppose the devil? – **1 Peter 5:8-9:**

a.) **Be sober** (*to be free from the influence of intoxicants*)

i.) Many Christians are “intoxicated” with the lies, deceptions, and opinions of the world. We need to be sober minded through the knowledge of God's word – Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13 – “It is written...”

b.) **Be vigilant** (*ferverently watchful*)

i.) 2 Tim. 4:5 – “But you be watchful in all things...”

c.) **Resist him, steadfast in the faith** = Our faith in God – 1 John 5:4; 1 Cor. 15:58; Jude 1:9.

D. “And he will flee from you.”

1.) **Why is this his response?**

a.) *It's his only choice!*

i.) **Matt. 8:29** – “Have you come here to torment us before the time?”

ii.) **Matt. 28:18** – “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

b.) *We're not the ones fighting* – 1 Sam. 17:45-47.

c.) *Light & darkness can't co-exist* – 2 Cor. 6:14.

d.) *He's already defeated* – Heb. 2:14; John 16:33; 1 John 4:4

2.) **He will flee, but remember: he'll be back** – Luke 4:13; 1 Pet. 5:8

