

# James 4:1-10

## Victory Over Pride

Welcome back and here we go! Boy, it has been forever it seems, so I am glad to be back, and I hope you are too! Today, we will continue our study in James. We will take on the broad subject of *PRIDE!*

Let's be clear. Pride is a *MENTAL ATTITUDE*. Pride shows up in many ways and it is never conducive to a closer relationship with God. If you are proud, God resists you. He is actually against you.

No thanks!

### **James 3:13-18**

Pride actually starts here: *"bitter envy"* and *"self-seeking"*.

- 1) How do we lie against the truth?

Pride will always put US in the place of 'most important', where bitter envy and self-seeking exist. I love verses:

**James 3:17-18** *<sup>17</sup>But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.'*

It really distinguishes the difference --- *"willing to yield"*!

### **James 4:1-10**

- 2) What does it mean to be a friend of the world?

I think as believers, our belief system, our truth, our desires, are, and should be, different than the world's.

Yet, the scripture says... *"But He gives more grace..." vs 4:6*

- 3) What does this verse mean?

To me, I think it means God knows I will struggle with the two: His views and the world's views. Thus, *"He gives more grace"*. Yet it also implies that I have a choice, and if I am seeking a different way, He will give me what I need.

**Sinful Pride** (from Grace Notes: Ephesians, Lesson 5)

A spirit of pride -- this is an exalted feeling based on personal success or position, or based on good training or education, on personal appearance, or on some natural gift or ability. Sinful pride is an inner feeling of self-importance which does not take into account God's provision of every resource and quality which goes into one's human traits and capabilities.

***Isaiah 14:12-15***

This is our great example of a being who refused to give God the credit and glory. He had an exalted feeling of importance. He was the worship leader, yet he forgot Who made him, gave him his position, allowed him free reign... much like us. God has given us free reign over our own decisions!

4) What is humility and is it a place of weakness?

Humility:      a) "a modest or low view of one's own importance."  
                    b) "freedom from pride or arrogance."

The subtitle in my Bible for verses **James 4:7-10** says "***Humility Cures Worldliness***".

So, again, the two DUELING MENTAL ATTITUDES - HUMILITY & WORLDLINESS.

***James 4:7-10***

Here James seems to give us the answer. Submit to God and resist the devil, meaning, make a choice between the two ideas: OBEDIENCE or my own way (PRIDE).

5) What are some of the things people struggle with in this regard?

Pride is a refusal to recognize God's way as the right way and to continue to choose our own way. Hence, God resists. But, choosing to go God's way --- this is where we will find peace. Yet mentally, it will always be a struggle... THEREFORE, RESIST --- RESIST --- RESIST.

What is the answer?

***James 4:8***

To REPENT. To turn back to God. To acknowledge Him and to ask for His forgiveness.

Hence, the "***mourning***" v9.

Let's pray now for God to lead us in His Way.