

Humble Yourself to Receive God's Grace

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JAMES 4:1-10

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BY WILLIE GAINES

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Guest Speaker: Willie Gaines



Willie serves as an instructor for ITS. He has a corporate background consisting of more than 20 years of service in the field of engineering. He attained his B.S. in electrical engineering from Prairie View A & M University, finishing 3rd in his class. He has extensive

experience in multiple industries that include enterprise solutions for aerospace, petrochemical, and computer manufacturing companies. In addition to working in the corporate arena, Willie has attained leadership levels in multiple entrepreneurial ventures and is currently a part owner in a thriving local restaurant.

Willie's true passion is helping people develop a deeper and more meaningful relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ. He served as a deacon and taught young adult and adult Sunday school classes at Progressive Missionary Baptist Church. In addition, he developed and taught the new member orientation classes. He has served as a superintendent of Sunday School, chaired the pastor selection committee when the church sought a new pastor, and worked as a member of the finance team.

Willie is formerly a member of Living Word Fellowship Church, where he also served as a deacon. He was entrusted with helping the church meet the spiritual and physical needs of more than 50 families assigned to him. His major passion, however, has been teaching the practical application of God's Word in our daily lives. He also serves as the secretary for the Christian Outreach Ministry and serves on the Finance Count Team ministry.

Willie is married to his childhood friend and sweetheart, Karen, and they are preparing to celebrate their 26th year of marriage.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in this passage.

Read James 4:1-10

(New Living Translation)

¹What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?

²You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.

³And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

⁴You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

⁵What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy?

⁶But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say,

“God opposes the proud
but favors the humble.”

⁷So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

⁸Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

⁹Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.

¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. Who is James speaking to in this epistle?

2. What issue was James addressing in this letter?

3. What attribute does God provide simply by asking?

4. What trait is absolutely essential to overcome trials?

5. What are the sources of trials among you?

6. What is lust?

7. Are you guilty of murder?

Have you committed murder?

8. How is your prayer life?

Seeing any results?

9. How do adulteresses fit in this part of the text?

10. What does James mean by “opposed?”

11. What does James mean by “submit?”

12. How do you draw near to God? Provide an example of drawing near to God.

13. Why does James instruct us to be miserable and mourn?

14. What can we do to be elevated?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

④ LIVE His Word

Summarize your thoughts on the passage.

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO.

Sermon Notes: