

June 7, 2020

The Journey at Home | Seven Steps to Restoring Peace

“⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. ¹¹ Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. ¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?”

James 4:7-12

Submit to God

- Submit here is a verb used to describe placing yourself somewhere to be subject to (to be led by)
- James is describing that submission to God is required if we are seeking true peace (with each other and with God).

Resist the Devil

- You have to make a clear effort/decision/choice to resist the devil. It must be a personal and passionate decision.
- If we resist, God's Word states that we are promised that the devil will flee.
- The devil is always looking for an opportunity...don't give him a chance with you.

Draw Near to God

- Draw means I come near or I approach. James is pleading – move! Get closer to God.
- No matter where you have been or what you have done...He won't run from you. Instead, James tells us a second promise, when we draw near to Him, He will be near to us.

Cleanse Your Hands

- We need to clean our hands because we are sinners. We do sinful things with our hands. Think were those hands have been. From the youngest of ages, we break promises because we had our fingers crossed and as we get older our hands are covered with the stain of sin.

Purify Your Hearts

- To truly purify our hearts, we must get rid of the darkest and ugliest parts.
- We cannot sugar coat purification.
- These phrases indicate the seriousness of evil in our hearts and a realization to how long we have let it go...it hurts, it is painful, it is not fun, but it is necessary.

Humble Yourselves Before God

- If we are seeking heavenly wisdom, if we are seeking peace with God, if we are seeking to be with Him in glory, we cannot be looking to the world. Rather, humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord – and He will exalt you.

Speak Love

- If you judge your brother, you stop being a doer of the law. God has called us to be doers and not judges.