

SHOW JAMES

faith that works

PART EIGHT

JAMES 4:7-10

Key points

Think back through the message.
What stuck out?

HUMBLE YOURSELF

- vs.10
- Exult or reward
- Philippians 2:6-9
- What does it mean to be humble?
- Humility is placing yourself in the hands of God
- God's definition of winning is the opposite of our natural normal definition

THE CHARACTER THAT BRINGS ABOUT HUMILITY

vs.7 "submit to God"

- Submit = to place under
- When was the last time you said to Jesus: "Lord Jesus I surrender to you?"

vs.8 "draw near to God"

- Submission vs. Compliance
- It's about relationship
- Drawing near to God is supposed to be a pleasure

vs.7 "resist the devil"

- διάβολος = diabolical and devil
 - which means: slanderer / accuser / false / lie
- The devil is limited
- The cure for self-interest is humility

THE BROKENNESS THAT BREAKS THROUGH

- vs.9
- vs.10
- The brokenness that breaks through is when you get honest with yourself
- We can never get by without the brokenness that breaks through

THREE QUESTIONS:

How are you affecting the people in your life?

Are you hungry for God's way, or are you arguing or negotiating?

Will you respond to the toughness of grace?

Is your understanding of humility Biblically correct?

Humility means submission, but not grovelling

Humility and submission go hand in hand. God's Word tells us that, as Christians, we are to submit to one another in lowliness of mind (1 Peter 5:5-6). By being submissive and "clothing ourselves with humility" we can create peace and unity with the others. We are not to be so proud and high up that we can't accept correction or exhortation.

At the same time, being submissive and humble does not mean in any way, shape or form that we are to bow down to other people. Paul was very clear when he said that we are to serve God and God alone (1 Corinthians 7:23; Galatians 1:10).

Humility means we use our talents and capabilities

Read Romans 12:3 & 2 Corinthians 3:5

This does not mean that we should neglect the gifts and the heavenly calling that God Himself has given to us. God wants to do a tremendous and transforming work in us and through our lives! He has equipped us each with our own talents and gifts and bought us with the precious blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:18-20)

Humility is the key to progress

Read James 4:6-8,10

God works according to laws. It is a natural law that if we humble ourselves under God's mighty hand, surrendering our own will and honour, then He will give us the grace that we need to live a Christian life in truth, as well as exalt us in His time.

To be humble is to have the same mindset as Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:7-8). Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. He did not value His own self-importance or honour, but freely gave it up in every situation so that God's will could be carried out and God could be glorified through His life.

God desires that we be among such ones, those who have a humble mindset and a desire and need to do His will. We are not to be rich and satisfied in ourselves. That is pride and stops God from doing a transforming work in our lives. Rather, we are to be humble and lowly of heart. Then God will regard us and give us the grace we need to make true progress in our Christian lives.

