

DESPERATELY in NEED of GRACE ~ James 4:4-6

→Scripture Reading James 4:4-6, Heb. 4:14-16

INTRODUCTION

→Picture Fall **MORE TO COME.**

James identified the **source** of the bitter fighting as being the **Pursuit of Pleasure**. So now he moves to a REBUKE of his readers for **spiritual unfaithfulness**. Expositors

WHO do you REALLY LOVE? ~ James 4:4-6

[4] You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

WORLD-the organize Satanic system that is opposed to God and hostile to Jesus and His followers...HCSB

Matthew 6:24 (NIV) No one can serve two masters. Either he will HATE the one and LOVE the other, or he will be DEVOTED to the one and DESPISE the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

[4] You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. [5] Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?

5- Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the Spirit He has caused to **live IN us** [by regeneration] yearns jealously [for our faithfulness to God].

They were being unfaithful to God and committing **spiritual adultery** with the world as they sought to satisfy their own cravings at the expense of church harmony. MBI

APPLICATION

→Spiritual Adultery occurs when we look OUTSIDE our relationship with God to have our needs met. It happens when we INVITE a third party, the WORLD, into the relationship. Zimmerman

IMPLICATION

→God is a JEALOUS God - He does not want to SHARE us with the world

Ephesians 4:30 (NLT) And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the WAY you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

God Gives GRACE to the HUMBLE ~ James 4:6

[4] You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. [5] Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?

[6] But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

The call is to shun pride and to submit humbly to God's authority. The cure for conflict is a humble spirit which is rewarded by God's unmerited favor. BKC

IMPLICATION

→There is a Difference between Grace that SAVES us and Grace that SUSTAINS us

GRACE is God's help that we don't DESERVE.

God's Grace is **GREATER** than our need and **MORE** than we ask. LAB

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) For it is by GRACE you have been SAVED, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - [9] not by works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 5:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, [2] through whom we have gained access by faith into this GRACE in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

As God gives us MORE GRACE, we realize that this world's seductive attractions are only cheap substitutes for what God has to offer. It is our choice - we can **HUMBLE** ourselves and receive **God's GRACE**, OR we can **continue** in our **pride** and self-sufficiency and experience His anger. LAB

→God OPPOSES the Proud and Arrogant

Proverbs 16:5 (NIV) The LORD DETESTS all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 16:18 (HCS) PRIDE comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall.

Daniel 4:37 (NIV) Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything HE does is right and all HIS ways are just. And those who WALK in PRIDE he is able to humble.

→God gives us GRACE so that we can LIVE His way

There will always be ENOUGH grace regardless of our situation or need. PTW

Isaiah 66:2 (NIV) ...This is the one I esteem: he who is HUMBLE and contrite in spirit, and TREMBLES at my WORD.

God has set a high standard for wholehearted love and devotion on the part of his people, but **He gives grace that is GREATER than the rigorous demand** HE has made. Expositor

Psalms 23:1-4 (NIV) The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. [2] He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, [3] he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. [4] Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

TAKE AWAY ??

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV) Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

[15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

[16] Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find GRACE to help us in our time of need.

He Giveth More Grace by: Annie Johnston Flint

He giveth MORE GRACE when the burdens grow greater, - He sendeth MORE strength when the labors increase; To added afflictions He addeth His mercy, - To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance, - When our strength has failed ere the day is half done, When we reach the end of our hoarded resources - **Our Father's full giving is only begun**.

His love has no limits, **His GRACE has no MEASURE**, - His power no boundary known unto men; For out of His infinite riches in Jesus - He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.