

RESISTANCE is NOT Futile ~ James 4:7-10

➔ Scripture Reading James 4:1, 4, 7-10

INTRODUCTION

>the BORG

>Resistance is Futile - you WILL be Assimilated.

James 4:4 (NIV) 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.

James issues a series of ten imperatives in vs. 7-10. The Greek tense is a forceful command calling for an IMMEDIATE response. Expositors

Come NEAR to God ~ James 4:7-10

[7] Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Come near to God and He will come near to you...

We RESIST the devil when we refuse to SURRENDER to the compulsion of sin. HNTC

... Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. [9] Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. [10] Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Humility is a profound understanding of how MUCH we have been Forgiven. It is a Growing sense of the ongoing need we have for God's Grace EVERYDAY in our lives.

Psalms 51:10-12 (NIV) Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. [11] Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. [12] **Restore to me the joy of your salvation** and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

God will not leave a humble heart mourning. He will accept the repentance and respond with His love, raising the person up FROM their mourning into the warmth of His love. DACarson

IMPLICATIONS

➔ Resistance is NOT FUTILE

[7] Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and **he WILL flee** from you.

➔ Resistance is POSSIBLE because of the POWER of God

[7]...**RESIST the devil**, and he will flee from you. [8] **Come NEAR to God** and He will come near to you. Only one view is more welcome than the backside of the Devil - and that is the **FACE of God**. PTW

Revelation 12:10-11 (NIV) Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the ACCUSER of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. [11] They OVERCAME him by the blood of the Lamb and by the WORD of their testimony; they did NOT love their LIVES so much as to SHRINK from DEATH."

Revelation 20:10 (NIV) And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

→God PROMISES that HE WILL Come near to us

[8] Come near to God and HE WILL come near to you.

APPLICATION

James 4:6 (NIV) But HE gives us MORE GRACE. That is why Scripture says: God OPPOSES the proud but gives GRACE to the humble.

Revelation 2:2-4 (NIV) I KNOW your DEEDS, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. [3] You have persevered and have endured hardships for MY NAME, and have NOT grown weary.

[4] Yet I hold this against you: You have FORSAKEN your FIRST LOVE.

LOVE the Lord our God with ALL our heart, ALL our soul, ALL our mind and ALL our strength.

TAKE AWAY ??

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as LIVING SACRIFICES, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.

[2] Do NOT CONFORM any longer to the pattern of this WORLD, but be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

We RESIST by...

- SUBMITTING to God - seek to LIVE by His Word
- Coming CLOSE to God - every time we turn away Repent turn BACK
- HUMBLING ourselves before God - Cast every doubt fear anxiety ON HIM
- RESISTING the devil - He will FLEE