



REVIEW: Living Faith Draws Near to God (James 4:6–10)

Reflect on how James gives not just commands, but a grace-fueled invitation to restoration. This is not a burden to bear—it's a roadmap back to the heart of God.

Read:

Take time to slowly read these passages:

- **James 4:6–10** – The call to submit, resist, draw near, repent, and be lifted up
- **Hebrews 10:19–22** – Draw near to God with confidence through Christ
- **2 Corinthians 7:9–10** – Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to life
- **Psalms 51:1–17** – A model of sincere confession and brokenness
- **Luke 15:17–24** – The Father's response to a repentant son

Reflect:

- What area of my life have I tried to control instead of submitting to God?
- Where have I believed the enemy's lies rather than resisting with truth?
- In what ways have I drawn away from God emotionally or spiritually?
- Are there behaviors I've excused instead of confessing and cleansing?
- Where is my heart divided—and what does that reveal about my affections?
- Have I allowed myself to grieve over sin—or have I rushed past conviction?
- What would humility look like in my life this week?

Remember:

1. When you're trying to control the outcome instead of trusting Him, **Submit to God.**
2. When you're tempted or attacked with lies about who you are, **Resist the Devil.**
3. When you feel spiritually dry or distant, **Draw Near to God.**
4. When your actions are misaligned with your identity in Christ, **Cleanse Your Hands.**
5. When your loyalties are divided and your affections are drifting, **Purify Your Heart.**
6. When sin no longer grieves you and joy feels shallow, **Lament, Mourn, and Weep.**
7. When you feel the urge to promote or defend yourself, **Humble Yourself.**

Apply:

Let your response be shaped by grace, not guilt. Choose one or two tangible actions this week:

- Begin each morning by praying, “God, I surrender today to You.”
- Identify one lie the enemy has used against you—replace it with truth from God’s Word.
- Set aside 10–15 minutes of quiet this week to grieve, confess, and draw near.
- Confess a specific sin out loud to God—and if needed, to a trusted believer.
- Write down one area where your loyalty to God has been divided—and commit to repentance.
- Do one hidden act of humility this week—sacrificial and unseen.

Pray:

• **Confession:**

"Father, I confess that I have drifted. I've held on to sin, pride, and control. I've resisted Your voice and ignored conviction. Forgive me."

• **Dependence:**

"Thank You for giving more grace. I cannot fix myself—but I trust that You can restore me. I draw near because You first drew near to me through Jesus."

• **Surrender:**

"I humble myself before You. Cleanse my hands. Purify my heart. Let my sorrow lead to joy, and let my life reflect grace-fueled repentance."

PREVIEW: Living Faith Speaks with Grace (James 4:11–12)

James now turns from our posture toward God to our posture toward others—especially in how we speak. Humility before God should transform how we talk about people made in His image.

Read ahead:

- **James 4:11–12** – Do not speak evil of one another
- **Matthew 12:36–37** – We will give an account for every careless word
- **Proverbs 10:19–21** – Wise speech brings life
- **Romans 14:4** – Who are you to judge another’s servant?

Think Ahead:

- How does humility before God shape how I speak about others?
- What does it mean to “judge” others wrongly with our words?
- Why is slander or criticism so easy to excuse—and so destructive?

Journal Prompt:

- What would it look like to consistently speak in a way that reflects submission to God and grace toward others?
- Where is God inviting me to let Him purify not just my heart—but my speech?