



SERIES: FEBRUARY – MARCH FAITH IN REAL LIFE

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Scripture: James 4:6-7

TITLE: Don't Miss the Grace

“All you had to do was ask.” I recently told my youngest son this. He wanted something as a snack, but instead, he was rude and demanding. He wasn't humble and in a position to receive his desire. He missed out on a little taste of grace simply because of pride.

We aren't really any different. How so?

Listen to what James says in James 4:5-7.

Or do you think it's without reason that the Scripture says: The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely? But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Verse five is said to be one of the most difficult to interpret. This comes from the ambiguity of the Greek. But context helps us.

In verse 4, James called out these Jewish Christians for acting as adulterers in their affair with the world. So it would stand to reason that “The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely.” Some commentators think “spirit” refers to our human spirit, but others and I believe this is God's Spirit in us. Because of this issue of pride and desire for the world, the Spirit of God is jealous of our worship and submission.

This makes sense from verse 4 and into verse 6, where James says, “he gives greater grace. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.” God's grace is greater for His children. The grace of salvation is unparalleled. But this grace and the grace for His children is not offered to the proud or the self-righteous.

Okay, so God values a humble spirit and a contrite heart. And guess what, when we surrender our pride, we will be in a position of submission to God and Christ's Lordship. When we do that, we won't submit to the call of the devil.

So here's my challenge for you today: humble yourself before God and others. I try to play God way too often. In fact, once is too much. It's so easy to become jealous of others or hungry for a little unhealthy taste of the culture and the flesh. This decision never works out well.

So humble yourself before God. Rejoice in His grace. His grace is sufficient. It is overflowing for His children. But we need to remain humble to receive it well.

When we humble ourselves before God, we are ready to be enveloped in His grace. Now that is what I call winning the day.