

James Series Going Deeper

5- Day Devotional

Week 11, Day 1: He Gives More Grace

Primary Verse:

Reading: James 4:6; Romans 5:20-21; Ephesians 2:4-9

Focus: The path of restoration begins with the greater grace of God.

Devotional:

James 4 is one of the most direct and loving confrontations in all of Scripture. James has just exposed quarrels, fights, selfish desires, coveting, wrongly motivated prayers, friendship with the world, and spiritual adultery. He is not dealing with surface-level behavior. He is exposing hearts that have become divided before God.

And then, after exposing the depth of the problem, James gives one of the most hope-filled statements in the entire passage:

“But he gives more grace.”

That phrase is everything.

James does not say sin is small. He does not say compromise is harmless. He does not say spiritual adultery is not serious. He does not soften the weight of rebellion, pride, selfish desire, or friendship with the world. But he does say that the grace of God is greater.

This means the depth of our sin is not greater than the supply of God’s grace. The seriousness of our compromise is not stronger than the mercy of God. The ugliness of what has been exposed in us does not exhaust the patience, kindness, and restoring power of the Lord.

This is where the path of restoration begins.

Not with self-hatred.

Not with hiding.

Not with religious performance.

Not with pretending things are better than they are.

Not with trying to repair ourselves before coming to God.

The path begins with grace.

But we must understand what grace is. Grace is not permission to stay in sin. Grace is not God pretending sin does not matter. Grace is not God lowering His holiness so we can keep living divided lives. Grace is God's holy power to forgive, cleanse, restore, transform, and bring us home.

For the believer who has drifted, compromised, or fallen deeply, this is the first truth that must settle into the heart: God's grace is not fragile. God is not shocked by what He exposes. He is not confused about how to restore what sin has broken. He is not lacking power to cleanse what has been defiled. He is not lacking mercy to receive the one who comes low before Him.

But James immediately tells us who receives this restoring grace:

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

God gives grace to the humble.

The proud cannot receive restoring grace because pride refuses to come into the light. Pride explains. Pride blames. Pride hides. Pride minimizes. Pride compares. Pride demands that others understand. Pride wants restoration without surrender. Pride wants healing without honesty. Pride wants reconciliation without repentance. Pride wants the blessing of God without the breaking of self.

But humility opens the heart to grace.

Humility is not hating yourself. Humility is seeing yourself honestly before God. Humility is agreeing with God about what is true. Humility stops defending what God is exposing. Humility stops negotiating with conviction. Humility stops making excuses for what Scripture calls sin. Humility stops saying, "But you do not understand," and begins saying, "Lord, have mercy on me."

This is where restoration begins.

Not because we deserve it.

Not because we have cleaned ourselves up.

Not because the sin was not serious.

But because God gives more grace.

If you are in a place where God is exposing sin, compromise, pride, or divided loyalty in your life, do not confuse conviction with rejection. Conviction may feel painful, but it is often the mercy of God calling you out of death and back into life.

The question is not whether there is enough grace in God.

The question is whether we will come low enough to receive it.

Reflection Questions:

1. **Where have you been tempted to minimize, explain, defend, or hide what God is exposing in your life?**
2. **What is the difference between receiving grace and using grace as an excuse to stay the same?**
3. **How does the phrase “But he gives more grace” give you hope without making sin seem small?**

Prayer:

Father, thank You that You give more grace. Thank You that my sin is not stronger than Your mercy and my failure is not greater than Your power to restore. Help me come before You honestly. Remove pride from my heart. Teach me to stop defending what You are exposing and to receive the grace You give to the humble. In Jesus' name, amen.

Today's Action Step:

Take a few quiet minutes before the Lord and pray this simple prayer: “God, show me where I am still proud, defensive, hidden, or divided.” Write down what He brings to mind and bring it honestly before Him.