

James Series Going Deeper

5- Day Devotional

Week 11, Day 2: Submit Yourself to God

Primary Verse:

Reading: James 4:7; Romans 12:1-2; Luke 9:23-24

Focus: Real repentance is not merely feeling sorry; it is surrendering the whole life back under the lordship of God.

Devotional:

After James tells us that God gives grace to the humble, he gives the next step on the path of restoration:

“Submit yourselves therefore to God.”

Submission is the language of surrender.

It means we stop fighting God for control. We stop treating our desires as ultimate. We stop acting like we have the right to define good and evil for ourselves. We stop trying to negotiate the terms of obedience. We come under the authority, wisdom, holiness, and lordship of God.

This is vital because many people want restoration from God without full surrender to God.

We want God to heal what is broken, but we still want to control the process. We want God to restore what has been lost, but we still want to determine the timeline. We want God to remove consequences, defend our reputation, fix our pain, and move things forward quickly. But James does not say, “Manage your image.” He does not say, “Control the outcome.” He does not say, “Explain yourself until everyone understands.”

He says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God.”

This is one of the hardest parts of repentance because true repentance requires us to stop being lord over the process.

Submission says:

“Lord, my life is Yours. My desires are Yours. My future is Yours. My reputation is Yours. My relationships are Yours. My healing is Yours. My restoration is Yours. I do not get to be lord over the process. You do.”

That is not easy. But it is holy.

Submission means we do not submit to our emotions. We do not submit to our image. We do not submit to our cravings. We do not submit to public opinion. We do not submit to defensiveness. We do not submit to fear. We do not submit to shame.

We submit to God.

This matters because real repentance is not merely feeling bad about what happened. It is not merely regret. It is not merely sorrow over consequences. It is not merely wishing things were different. Real repentance is the reordering of the entire heart under the lordship of God.

For many of us, sin did not begin with one action, one moment, or one failure. It began deeper, in places of the heart where desires had gone unchecked, pride had gone unchallenged, and surrender had become partial instead of whole.

That means restoration cannot be shallow.

If the root issue was partial surrender, then the path of restoration must include deeper submission.

God is not only after changed behavior. He is after a surrendered heart. He is after the places in us that still want control. He is after the desires we have treated as ultimate. He is after the hidden loyalties we have protected. He is after every part of us that wants His blessing without His authority.

And yet, submission to God is not cruel. It is life.

God is not calling us to surrender because He wants to crush us. He is calling us to surrender because He loves us too much to let us remain enslaved to what is destroying us.

The world tells us freedom is found in doing whatever we want. Scripture tells us freedom is found in belonging fully to God.

The path of restoration requires a holy surrender that says, “Lord, I am done fighting You. I am done negotiating. I am done trying to control what only You can heal. I submit myself to You.”

Reflection Questions:

1. **Where are you most tempted to want God’s restoration while still controlling the process?**
2. **What part of your life, reputation, future, or healing is hardest for you to surrender to God?**
3. **How is God inviting you to reorder your heart under His lordship today?**

Prayer:

Lord, I submit myself to You. My life belongs to You. My desires, my future, my relationships, my healing, and my restoration are all in Your hands. Forgive me for wanting Your grace while

still holding onto control. Teach me to surrender fully, not just outwardly, but from the heart. In Jesus' name, amen.

Today's Action Step:

Name one specific area where you have been trying to control the outcome. Pray over it and say out loud, "Lord, this belongs to You."