

NEVERTHELESS

Surrender and the War With Selfish Pride

JAMES 4:1-10

All to Jesus I surrender. All to him I freely give. Many of us have sung this hymn while we're still holding on to something. We sang all. We meant most. This is the natural human condition. Surrender runs against our oldest instinct. James deals with it head-on. Where does the fight really start? What does pride look like in good people who have been faithful to the Lord? What does God do about it? How can surrender become an everyday practice?

I. James 4:1-3: The Source of the Problem

- A. James 4:1: *Don't they come from your _____ that _____ within you?*
1. "Passions" (hedonism). Cravings. Appetites. "The things I want."
 2. "Wage war," a military word; the appetites are campaigning inside you.
- B. James 4:2b ... *You do not have because you do not ask. We never brought it to God at all.*
- C. James 4:3: *You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your _____.* Some pray — and pray for ammunition.

II. James 4:4-5: What's At the Root

- A. James 4:4: *You adulterous people! Don't you know that friendship with the world is _____ toward God? ...*
- B. Galatians 5:20: *hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of _____, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, ...*

III. James 4:6: But He Gives Greater Grace

- A. James 4:6b: *God resists the _____ but gives grace to the humble.*
1. God moves toward the man with open hands.
 2. The proud man is turned away because his hands are full.

IV. James 4:7-10: What Surrender Actually Looks Like

- A. James 4:7: _____ to God. Resist the devil
- B. James 4:8: Draw near to God. _____ your hearts, you double-minded.
- C. James 4:9: Be miserable and _____ and weep.
- D. James 4:10: _____ yourselves before the Lord.

V. So, Where Am I Resisting?

- A. Where is there a room in your life you haven't given him a key to?
- B. Where's the private scoreboard? Who's on it?
- C. Is there a person you've stopped praying for because you'd rather be right about them?
- D. When you were corrected last — what came up in your mind first? Self-Defense?.
- E. Where have you been praying for ammunition instead of praying for a changed heart?
- F. Is there a place where you're technically obedient and internally furious?
- G. What have you told yourself is conviction that's actually just not wanting to lose?
- H. Where have you been double-minded... wanting God and your way, never having to pick?

VI. Look at Him

- A. Luke 22:42: *Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me— _____, not my will, but yours, be done.* He didn't stroll into surrender but came looking for an exit.
1. Surrender isn't the absence of wanting something else. It's the nevertheless.
- B. Hebrews 12:2: *keeping our eyes on _____, ... We keep our eyes on the one who can see us to the end.*
- C. Hebrews 12:3: *For consider him who endured such hostility from sinners against himself, so that you won't grow weary and give up.* He walked down to where you are and then walked further. He went first.

VII. As We Close...

- A. James 4:10 is a promise: *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*
- B. Open your hands.

Questions

1. Think of a disagreement you've had in the last month. Small one counts. If the fight wasn't really about the thing you were arguing about, what was underneath it?
2. What's the difference between praying that God would change a situation and praying that God would change you inside it? Which one do you actually pray more often?
3. Pride shows up loud, and it shows up quiet — the private scoreboard, the tally of who owes you an apology. Which version is easier to spot in yourself? Why is the quiet one so much harder to see, especially in a person who's been faithful a long time?
4. How would this week look different if you really believed God moves toward you before your hands are open?
5. Jesus asked for another way before he yielded. What does that tell us about surrender that we'd miss if we only looked at the cross and skipped the garden? What's your nevertheless right now?

Answers

Jesus	Mourn
Passions	Hostility
Nevertheless	Purity
Wage War	Anger
Humble	Submit
Pleasures	Proud