

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

Nov 2017

## FAITH IN ACTION: #8: SUBMITTING TO GOD PART 2

### INTRODUCTION

Why is submission to God such a difficult concept for some people to grasp?

### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

#### Read James 4:7-12

*Note: No doubt James understood repentance to be a lifelong practice for every believer. All fall into sins that undermine faith and relationship to God; all must return to him for the restoration of whole-hearted commitment.<sup>1</sup>*

1. How does one come near to God? vs 8 Ex 19:22; How does that strengthen us? vv 7-8; **Isa 1:16**;
2. How does the devil react when a person resists him? vs 7
3. What ten commands does James give to believers in verses 7-10?

*Note: These verses are sometimes referred to as the "how to" for repentance.*

4. What promises are attached to two of these commands?

*Note: If verses 1-6 are the problem, verses 7-10 are the prescription.*

5. What does it mean to submit to God? vs 7 ; **1 Pet 5:6-9**
6. What is the difference in pride and a sense of accomplishment? **Lk 18:13**
7. When disagreements arise, what needs to happen? vv 2c, 7, 11
8. What is "the law" in verse 11? **Jas 1:25, 2:8, 2:12**
9. What is the difference between slander and judgment?

*Note: Instead of the divine measure of judgment in the word of God, the slanderer establishes his or her own measure and finds a brother lacking, worthy of rejection.<sup>2</sup>*

10. Is it OK to identify sin in order to stand against it or to help a brother? **Eph 4:25** Explain.

*Note: The Bible teaches us that we must have Christian discernment (**1 Thes. 5:21-22**; **1 John 4:1-6**), but this does not mean that we can judge the hearts and motives of others.<sup>3</sup>*

11. When we speak against a fellow believer, what attitude are we having toward God and His law?  
vv 11-12; **Jas 2:8-12**

### APPLICATION

- What can you do this week to draw near to and *submit* to God?

*God gives more grace: The same Holy Spirit convicting us of our compromise will also grant us the grace to serve God as we should. But this grace only comes to the humble.*

*God resists the proud: Grace and pride are eternal enemies. Pride demands that God bless me in light of my merits, whether real or imagined. But grace will not deal with me on the basis of anything in me, good or bad, but only on the basis of who God is.*

*God gives grace to the humble: It isn't as if our humility earns the grace of God. Humility merely puts us in a position to receive the gift He freely gives.*

*Therefore, submit to God: In light of the grace offered to the humble, there is only one thing to do: submit to God. This means to order yourself under God, to surrender to Him as a conquering King, and start receiving the benefits of His reign.*

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<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>Richardson, K. A. (1997). *Vol. 36: James*. The New American Commentary (183). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (731). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.