

The Book Of James
#8-The Humility of Heavenly Wisdom

Memory Verse - Hand Out Scriptures to read

James 4:10 (NKJV) *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

James 3:13-4:10; Deut. 4:6; Gal. 5:17; Jer. 3:6-10, 20; Acts 19:13-16; Ps. 24:3-6.

The Great Sin

“According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.” - C.S. Lewis

Isaiah 14:12–14 (NKJV) *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’”*

(Nebuchadnezzar) Proud of Success

Dan 4:30, 31 *The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.*

***Prov 27:2** *“Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.”*

When the head swells the brain shrinks.

Compliments is like perfume, Smell it, but don't swallow it.

Uzziah fell through religious pride.

2 Chr 26:16 *But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.*

We must never presume to approach the Lord with a self-sufficient spirit.

One of the highest forms of pride is to presume that you are above obedience. Proud religion is a substitute for humble obedience.

Give to be seen, - Fast to be seen, - Pray to be seen. Religion of Devils.

The Meekness of Wisdom

James 3:13 (NKJV) *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.*

Hebrews 13:7 (NKJV) *Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.*

Wisdom - Balaam beating donkey

Daniel 12:3–4 (NKJV) *Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever. “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”*

- “Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something.”
- He that knows little often repeats it.
- “Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living; the other helps you make a life.”
- Wisdom is knowing what to do next, skill is knowing how to do it, and virtue is doing it.”

***Prov 16:19** *“Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.”*

Two Kinds of Wisdom

James 3:15–16 (NKJV) *This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*

John 3:3–7 (NKJV) *Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”*

***Colossians 3:1–2** (NKJV) *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Deu 4:5, 6 "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

Cause of Conflict and Quarrels

James 4:1 (NKJV) *Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?*

***Galatians 5:17** (NKJV) *For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.*

James 4:2-4 (NKJV) *You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. ⁴Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

Friendship With the World

Jeremiah 2:2 (NKJV) *"Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown.*

The evil that led to Peter's fall and that shut out the Pharisee from communion with God is proving the ruin of thousands today. There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable. - Christ's Object Lessons - pg: 154

Submission to God

James 4:7-10 (NKJV) *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.***

"If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one." --Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 189.

Humble Yourself

Deu 15:15 *"You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing today."*

Job 22:29 *"When they cast you down, and you say, 'Exaltation will come!'" Then He will save the humble person."*

Psa 25:9 *"The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.*

***Psa 37:11** *"But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."*

1 Cor 13:4 *"Love is patient, Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, **it is not proud.**" NIV*

James 4:6 *"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."*

Humility Before Greatness (Moses)

Num 12:3 *(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)*

They say if you are in an open field during an electric storm tried to become as small as possible to avoid being struck by lightning.

We can become proud of our humility.

I heard about a man in Africa who received a medal for being the most humble person in the village. But then they took the medal away from him because he decided to wear it.

Matt 23:11,12 *"But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. and whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." **A butterfly starts as a worm!***

Micah 6:8 *"He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you. But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?"*

2 Chr 7:14 *"If My people who are called by My name **will humble themselves**, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, **then I will hear** from heaven, and will forgive their sin and hear their land." God cannot answer our prayers until we humble ourselves.*

Esther 6:6 *"Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?"*

Proverbs 11:2 *"When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom." Esther 6:12*

Mark 9:33-34 *"But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest"*