

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

GOD GIVES MORE GRACE

James 4:5-6 “Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He (God) yearns jealously over the spirit that He has made to dwell in us”? But He gives more grace. Therefore, it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

James continues in verses five and six to challenge the readers of his letter regarding their love of the world and following what the world wants them to do. Of course, these words also address you and/or any Christian that is tempted to follow this same path. He begins in verse five with a rhetorical question that takes for granted that his readers know the Holy Scriptures are full of God’s wisdom and are given them to work God’s good purpose in their lives.

James reminds them of God’s gift of His Holy Spirit to live in them to make and keep them as God’s dear friends. This is, of course, the opposite of what the world attempts to do. In fact, the Holy Spirit is grieved when a believer in God becomes a friend of the world. Paul exhorts true believers, “walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. . .the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh. . .(that) keeps you from doing the things you want to do.” (Galatians 5:16-7)

What God’s friendship means, James says, is God gives more grace, more of His undeserved love. As a baptized believer the Holy Spirit fills you with “first-fruits” (James 1:17) so you groan inwardly as (you) we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our (your) bodies. For in this hope we (you) were saved. . .” (Romans 8:23-24)

James concludes in verse 6, “God opposes the proud (haughty) but gives grace to the humble.” The proud (haughty), those in love with the world, are friends of it. The world promises to satisfy their self-centeredness, pride and arrogance. The Scriptures ask, “What good is it if a person gains the whole world, but loses his soul?” (Matthew 15:26)

God, on the other hand, promises the lowly and humble, who have nothing of the world, who depend solely upon Him, His riches, His undeserved love which satisfies their souls in the “now” and for all eternity. They are vessels God fills with His good and precious gifts.

Prayer: Fill me, dear Father, with Your love that alone endures forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!
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