



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Submit and Draw Near to God

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Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

The Epistle of James' (AD 45-50) likely author was James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ, the leader of the Jerusalem church, the leader of the Council of Jerusalem and a humble man. While James is addressing the twelve tribes that had scattered to all parts of the world and attempts to be encouraging to the believing Jews who were struggling with trials and tribulations, he confronts the issue of the testing and fruit of a faithful Christian's walk and the wise Godly righteous reactions of him when grounded in total faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers will battle the enemies of the world, their flesh and Satan (3:15). Wisdom's foundation is either from man or from God and all will need to make a choice. (James 4:7-10 NASB)

“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” (cf. 4:7-8)

Submit to God. All are to submit (Gk. *hupotasso*, to place in order, line up under) to God. Scripture describes numerous examples of submission including; Jesus to His parents (Lk 2:51), wives to husbands, as to the Lord, the church to Christ, children to parents, and workers to bosses (Eph 5:22-6:9).

It is a willing active choice for people to determine who they will line up under or to follow. James states when people submit with a living faith to God and subsequently resist the devil, the devil will flee from them. People cannot resist the wiles of the evil one in their own strength but can through the strength, power and armor of God (Eph 6:10-20). People are either under the lordship of Christ or lining up under the lordship of their flesh, the world and Satan (3:15, Jn 8:44).

What happens when people submit and draw near to God? God will draw near to them. The living faith of believer will desire a growing constant communion with God.

In The Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians, Paul shares a number of examples of defensive spiritual armor that must be worn and two offensive weapons to be used daily by a believer to win the daily spiritual battles. Those offensive weapons are:

His Word, “...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Eph 6:17) AND prayer, “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit...” (Eph 6:18)

Ponder and Prayer. Submission to God creates a desire in the believer to identify with, know, serve, worship and glorify God. Paul, James, Peter and Jude identified themselves as “bond-servants”. Believers draw near to God by reading and pondering of His word and prayer at all times and in all things, constant “drawing near” communion with God.

“Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.”(cf.4:8-10)

Never treat sin lightly. James was warning the people that sin was to be taken very seriously and the absence of a desire to be cleansed from sin and the lack of misery and mourning over sins reflected a prideful nature, a dead faith. However, understanding the eternal consequences of sin, a mourning of sin, a humbling desiring to be eternally cleansed from sin through the grace of God in belief and in submission to Jesus Christ will bring exaltation.

For Your Consideration:

- Have you chosen to submit to God?
- Are you resisting the devil in your strength or with God's?
- Are you drawing near to God through the pondering of His word and communion with Him in prayer?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44