

## Lesson 7

# PRIDE VERSUS HUMILITY

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble  
(James 4:6).

Proud people are easily tripped up. Pride leads to selfish motives, and can unnecessarily lead to temptations and trials. A proud person is someone who has not yet met God. A proud person is only concerned about their own wants.

1. Write Proverbs 16:18.

Contrarily, Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit” (Matthew. 5:3). The poverty of spirit is a deep humility that is receptive to God’s instruction. A humble person is open to God’s plan and is a teachable spirit. Humility is the natural consequence and result of an authentic encounter with God. It’s the opposite of being proud.

### READ JAMES 4:1-10: THE CONSEQUENCES OF PRIDE

In this passage, James teaches us the principle of humility and how this godly attribute is the secret to God’s grace—especially in trials and temptations. James also shows that God resists the proud.

2. Write James 4:1.

Wars and fights come from our desire for pleasure. When we don’t get what we want, we fight in order to have it. War comes when we covet and envy what others have or when we want our own way (pride), instead of thinking what would be best for others (humility).

3. Write James 4:3.

The things we desire (pride) should be a matter of prayer. Allow God to decide whether or not to satisfy that desire, or to replace or deny it (humility).

4. Write James 4:4.

If you are a friend of the world, what are you to God? An enemy.

5. Write 1 John 2:15-16.

Worldliness begins in the heart and is characterized by three attitudes.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

6. Write James 4:5.

The Spirit that is in us is jealous concerning our love. God doesn’t want us to have any other passion that would take away our love for Him.

7. Write James 4:6.

### **READ JAMES 4:7-10: THE BENEFITS OF HUMILITY**

When we humble ourselves before God, we are released from our self-centered desires and desire God, realizing that all we really need is His approval. When the Holy Spirit fills us, we see that this world's seductive attractions are only cheap substitutes for what God has to offer.

8. Write James 4:7.

When we resist Satan, he has to flee from us. Satan has to submit to the authority of Jesus Christ.

9. What does God instruct us about humility? Write James 4:8.

When James tells us to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts, this means we are to lead a pure life. If we say we are Christians and live a life that is impure and sinful, we are double-minded. We must replace that desire to sin with a new desire to experience God's purity.

10. Write James 4:9.

When we are mournful and sorry for the sin we commit, this expresses a desire to repent and change. This type of attitude leads to humility.

11. James 4:10.

### **READ JAMES 4:11-12: APPLYING HUMILITY**

12. James 4:11-12 tells us not to speak evil of another or to judge them. How could this be prideful?

13. Write James 4:12.

Paul said in Romans 14:4, "Who are you to judge another man's servant? Before his own master, he either stands or falls" It is God who will either accept or reject what a person is doing. So to be a judge of someone else is wrong. Judge not. Don't speak evil of another, because if you speak evil, you are judging God's servant.

### **READ JAMES 4:13-17**

It is good to have goals, but goals can disappoint if we leave God out. This kind of pride can lead to our downfall. It's okay to plan ahead, but we must hold on to those plans loosely. We should put God's desires at the center of our planning. My life is subject to the will of God. Boasting about your future is prideful.

14. Write the James 15.

15. Write James 4:16.

Boasting is a type of pride that is rude and has empty assurance. It trusts in its own power and resources and shamefully despises and violates God's laws and others' needs. Boasting is an empty presumption that believes in the stability of earthly things.

God wants us to look to Him for guidance in everything. (James 4:15) As we do this, we will see that He is the One doing great things in our lives—not ourselves. We need to humble ourselves before God, laying aside our pride and worldly desires with willing and obedient hearts. Having a humble heart, God will give us grace when it comes to trials and temptations.