

November 15, 2020  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
James 4:1-10

**“Be a True Friend of God!” – Part 4**

**IX. Be a true friend of God (4:1-10) – ARE YOU A TRUE FRIEND OF GOD?**

- A. The Earthly Problem (1-5)
- B. The Heavenly Solution (6-10)
  - 1. God’s Provision (6)

- a. The Contrast (6a) – “But He gives a greater grace.”

But (Rom. 3:21; Eph. 2:4)

He (1 Pet. 5:10; Acts 15:11; Heb. 10:29)

Gives (2 Tim. 1:8-9; Heb. 2:9; Eph. 2:5; Eph. 2:6-9)

Grace (Ex. 34; 1 Pet. 5:10; Rom. 5:2)

Greater (1 Tim. 1:14; Rom. 5:20; 2 Cor. 12:7-9)

- b. The Condition (6b) – “Therefore it says, ‘God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’” (Prov. 3:34; 1 Pet. 5:5)

Opposed to the proud (Rom. 1:30; 2 Tim. 3:2 – arrogant)

Pride leads to Boasting (Acts 12; Mt. 6; Rom. 12:3; 1 Cor. 4:7)

Pride leads to sinful thoughts, attitudes and actions toward God (Ps. 10:4; 14:1; Neh. 9:16ff; 2 Chron. 32:25; Hosea 13:5; Prov. 30:7-9)

“A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.” (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

Prov. 16:5

Four ways God resists the proud (John Blanchard): 1) By refusing to speak (Lk. 23:8-9); 2) By ridiculing their schemes (Ps. 2:1-4); 3) By ruining their success (2 Chron. 26); 4) By removing their status (Dan. 5:20).

Job 40:6-14

“But (He) gives grace to the humble.”

“It is God’s nature to make something out of nothing. That is why He cannot make anything out of him who is not yet ‘nothing.’” Martin Luther

Mt. 18:3-4; Lk. 9:48; Ps. 18:27; Zeph. 3:11-12; Prov. 22:4

So what?

## Discussion & Application:

1. How would you summarize “The Earthly Problem” in James 4:1-5?
2. Note the first two words of James 4:6: “**But He...**” Why are these words so important to James, to his first century readers, and to us? What other passages of Scripture present a “But God” solution to man’s deepest problems / needs? How do those verses help you better understand God’s amazing **grace**?
3. Pastor Paul spent time breaking down the phrase: “**He gives a greater grace.**” Discuss the significance of each word in that sentence. Do you ever feel like you have exhausted God’s grace? Is that possible? If not, why not?
4. How does this understanding of God’s grace impact the way you share the gospel with people?
5. How does this understanding of God’s grace impact your approach to personal sanctification and/or helping others who are struggling with sin to grow in holiness?
6. What are some obvious ways that pride shows up in our thoughts, attitudes, words and actions? What are some subtle ways?
7. John Blanchard listed four ways that God resists the proud. Have you ever experienced any of these? What are some other ways that God might resist the proud?
8. What is one of God’s job descriptions in Job 40:6-14? Does that surprise you? Why is God opposed to the proud? Why is this a big deal?
9. What are some characteristics of someone who is humble? What does God do for those who are humble before Him?
10. What are some practical things you can do on a daily basis to become and remain in a state of humility?
11. Read James 4:7-10 in preparation for next Sunday. Your flesh will be resistant to obeying the 10 commands listed there. Ask the Lord to prepare your heart to understand and apply these 10 commands for the rest of your life when you give in to sin and wander away from an intimate friendship with God.
12. If you haven’t already done so, **memorize James 4:1-10**. Recite it in the morning and at lunchtime. In the evening, go back over James chapters 1-3 to retain what you have already memorized.