

## **SUBMIT YOURSELF TO GOD**

(Jas. 4:7-10)

### **Introduction:**

1. Repetition in the Bible perks up our ears and opens wide our hearts. Repetition is God's way of making sure that we understand His will for our good always.
2. A careful study of the fourth chapter of James teaches us three powerful truths that we see repeated frequently elsewhere in the Bible. We learn that submission to God gives us peace with God, peace with one another and peace of mind.
3. Let us consider these three lessons of James 4 and note the repetition in 1 Peter and Matthew 5.

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. For Peace with God (Jas. 4:6-10).**

- A. Jas. 4:7-10 = Submit to God, come to God = cleansing, purification, and being lifted up.
- B. Compare 1 Pet. 5:6-11 = Humble self (submit to God), cast your cares on Him (entails coming to God) = being exalted, perfected, established, strengthened, and settled.
- C. Compare Matt. 5:3-5 = Those who are humble (poor in spirit), sorry for their sin and its effects (mourning), and self-controlled (meek) shall receive the kingdom of heaven, be comforted, and inherit the earth (a habitation from God-2 Pet. 3:13; Heb. 11:16; Gal. 4:25, 26; Rev. 21:2, 10).

#### **II. For Peace with One Another (Jas. 4:1-5, 11, 12).**

- A. Jas. 4:1-5, 11, 12 = Not submitting to God = not submitting to one another and produces all sorts of troubles.
- B. Compare 1 Pet. 5:5; 2:13-17 = the command to submit to one another is given plainly; reinforcing what Peter had commanded earlier. The purpose of this submission is: the glory of God (2:12); Christ-likeness (2:21); salvation via the grace of God (5:5, 6).
- C. Compare Matt. 5:6, 7 = Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (the right-ness that God calls us to) and are merciful to others shall receive the mercy of God and be filled with God's righteousness.

#### **III. For Peace of Mind (Jas. 4:13-17).**

- A. Jas. 4:13-17 = Submission to God defines our lives, our purposes, and our hope.
- B. Compare 1 Pet. 1:17-2:12 = Submission to God defines our lives, purposes, and our hope.
- C. Compare Matt. 5:8-16 = undivided devotion to God defines our lives, purposes, and our hope.

### **Conclusion:**

1. Sounds like God is trying to teach us something and to reinforce that teaching, doesn't it?
2. If we would be wise we would pause and consider, and then hearken to the message. God is God, let us approach Him appropriately. As our God He will afford us peace with Himself, though we rebelled. He will afford us peace with one another, though we often fuss and fight. And, He will afford us peace of mind, in a world of dark confusion and contradictions.
3. Would you have the peace of God in your life, all aspects of your life?
3. Invitation.

## **MORE ON “SUBMIT YOURSELF TO GOD”**

1. We can't help but to also notice the similarities with the accounts of sinful man confronting our sinless God.
  - ▶ Is. 6 = Isaiah humbles himself before God and is cleansed with a burning coal and commissioned a messenger for God.
  - ▶ Ezek. 1:28-2:3 = Ezekiel humbles himself before God and is given the Spirit of God, lifted up, and commissioned a messenger of God.
  - ▶ Luke 5:8-10; John 20:22; Acts 2 = Peter humbles himself before Jesus and is cleansed, receives the Spirit of God, and is commissioned a messenger of God.
  - ▶ Rev. 1:17 = John humbles himself before the glorified Lord and is told the same words the Lord spoke to Peter in Luke 5 “do not be afraid”. John had been cleansed and had received the Spirit (Rev. 1:10), and was commissioned a messenger of God (Rev. 1:19ff).
  
2. We can't help but recall how this foundational teaching is plainly revealed in the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17).
  - ▶ VV 1-11 = you shall honor your God as God and He alone. This entails obedience (v8).
  - ▶ VV 12-17 = you shall honor one another as God has commanded.
  - ▶ V17 = you shall have contentment (peace) in your life.
  
3. Consider...
  - ▶ Gen. 4:7
  - ▶ Ex. 6:7
  - ▶ Lev. 26:1-16ff
  - ▶ Jer. 30:18-24
  - ▶ Hos. 1:8; 2:21-23 = Rom. 9:25, 26; 1 Pet. 2:9, 10
  - ▶ Matt. 11:28-30 says it all and puts it all in simple terms.