

He Giveth More Grace

James 4:6-7



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FOCAL Read Responsively James 4:6-7 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. {7} **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

It is always best to submit yourselves to God. The word translated in our text as "**submit**" literally means¹ "**to put yourself under the lawful authority of, to bend the knee to another**". Submission to God means to follow God *because* He is God. God made all things. He made us, and He knows what is best for us. When we follow God then we receive God's best in our lives. The Bible says

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

When we follow God we will be at peace. When we follow the world, the flesh, or the devil we will never be satisfied.

A big oil tycoon had one of his largest oil wells catch on fire. He called everyone he knew, seasoned fire fighters, and one after the other came out, looked at the great fire, then refused the job. The fire was just out of control, and much too hot to get near. Millions of dollars worth of equipment was useless because they couldn't get close enough to let out their high pressure fire hoses.

¹ G5293, ὑποτάσσω, hupotassō, hoop-ot-as'-so, From G5259 and G5021; to subordinate; reflexively to obey: - be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit self unto.

In desperation the tycoon called the local volunteer fire department. In a few minutes he saw Engine 77 - an old dilapidated 1947 truck - come chugging down the hill. Rather than slow down the old fire engine shot past the other fancy trucks and, as if it was driven by a crazy man, it went into the heart of the flames. The brave volunteer firemen hopped out of the truck as fire licked at their feet. Quick as a wink the men had the hoses out, and turned the force of the water on the fire. The blaze quickly went out.

As the smoke and flame marked men wearily put up their hoses the tycoon ran to the Fire Chief. "That was the bravest thing I've ever seen! I'm going to donate a million dollars to your Fire Department and make sure that everyone knows how brave you men are." As the tycoon walked away one of the men looked at the Fire Chief and said, "A million dollars! What are you going to do with that money?" The Chief, weary and singed from the flame, said "I think the first thing I'll do is go buy a fire truck with better brakes!"

The most important lesson any driver learns is how to put on the brakes. The most important lesson any person ever learns is how to submit their lives to the Lord. We might be able to live without submitting to God, but we will never have a good quality of life until we surrender and bend the knee to Him.

1. Submit Yourselves To God For This Is The Way To Eternal Life

FOCAL James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. ...

There are many great examples of submission to God - and failure to submit - found in our Old Testament.

The earliest murder was committed because one man refused to submit to God.

I refer to the case of Cain and Abel. When Eve had her firstborn son Cain she was so proud of him. When Eve saw Cain for the first time she said "**I have made a man with the help of the Lord**"². She loved Cain, and loved her second born child Abel. Cain and Abel - both had so much promise. The Bible tells us that Cain the firstborn grew up to be a farmer like his Daddy Adam, but Abel grew up to be a shepherd. When it came time to bring an offering to God the second born Abel brought the Lord sheep that he sacrificed. The first born child Cain brought the Lord (**Genesis 4:3**) "**of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD**". God rejected Cain's offering, but accepted Abel's offering - and Cain was livid! He was the first born. He took over the family business. How could God be so mean as to accept Abel's offering and not his!

The answer is found in the fall of man. When Adam refused to submit himself to God and ate of the forbidden fruit he brought spiritual death on himself and on all the world. Adam tried to cover his sin with fig leaves - with the works of his hands.

Genesis 3:7 ... **they sewed fig leaves together, and**

made themselves aprons.

This is man made religion at its best. When we fail, rather than go to God and **submit ourselves to Him for forgiveness** we try and *do penance, making it better ourselves*. Did this work? No. Was it acceptable to God? No.

Though Adam and Eve tried to cover their sins with the works of their own hands it was entirely ineffective. Adam still saw his sin, God's holiness, and hid from God because of it. **Only God can cover sin!**

It would take God to fix what Adam did. The Lord promised that a Redeemer would one day come to defeat Satan and his evil works:

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between {the devil} and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

This is the earliest preaching of the Gospel. But then God preached the Gospel by removing Adam and Eve's fig leaves and by covering their sins the *right* way. The Bible says:

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

God had to kill animals to **make coats of skins**. Fig

leaves were removed and blood was shed to "**cover their nakedness**". God taught Adam and Eve that:

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Only by the shedding of Blood is sin covered. God wanted to teach both man and woman that the works of their hands could not make them right with God.

Blood had to be shed. Adam and Eve remembered this as they left the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve surely taught this to Cain and Abel. Abel got it. He understood that the Lord would have to come one day and shed His Blood that we might be saved. Every time an animal was killed and his blood spilled it looked toward to the day when Jesus would come.

Romans 3:23-27 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; {24} Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: {25} Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation {a covering} through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; {26} To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. {27} Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Abel got it! He brought the Lamb without blemish before

the Lord and sacrificed that Lamb.

Genesis 4:4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

**"What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!
O precious is the flow,
That makes me white as snow.
No other fount I know!
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus"**

Abel understood, but Cain - like so many others - just didn't get it. Perhaps Cain thought "since I'm the firstborn - and special - God will accept my offering". Perhaps he thought "momma and daddy had their sins covered by God, so mine are automatically covered". More than likely Cain thought "I'm a pretty good person, and my works are good enough for God. I'll just offer the fruit of the field no matter what God says". Regardless as to what he thought the Bible says that:

Genesis 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Oh terrible pride, how many have you killed? Cain should have repented and brought the Blood of the Lamb before the Lord. Look into Heaven. Look through the eyes of John the Revelator, and see who he saw. Did he

see "good people" who brought "good works" to be saved around the Throne of God? No!

Revelation 7:14-15 {the saved} are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. {15} Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

If you're going to be "washed and made white" it will only be through "the blood of the Lamb". If you're going to stand before "the throne of God and serve Him day and night in HIS Temple" then it will only be if you are covered by the Blood of the Lamb. If "He that sitteth on the Throne shall dwell with you" then it will only be if you have submitted to Him and have placed your lives under the Blood. Cain refused. He got mad at God. Instead of submitting to the Savior he let pride rule his soul. The Lord warned Cain:

Genesis 4:7 If you do right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must master it."³

God told Cain "I love you. If you do the right thing - if you submit to the Blood - I'll accept you. Sin is crouching at the door of your life. Master it - or it will master you!"

Cain let sin master him. When you fail to submit to

God sin becomes your master.

The Bible tells us that Cain lured his brother out into one of his fields. While Cain stood in the midst of the gracious bounty that God had given him he raised his hand against his own brother. Cain killed Abel. When God asked Cain where Abel was he said

Genesis 4:9 ... I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

"I don't know where the keeper of sheep is - that's not my job". Cain lost his job, lost his fields, lost everything because of sin. Abel, on the other hand, gained eternal life and a perpetual witness because he submitted himself to the Lord. The Bible tells us:

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Cain forgot God - and killed his brother because he refused to submit to God. Abel, on the other hand, submitted to God - and God remembered Abel. If you have submitted to God by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ then *you shall never die*. When you leave this life the relationship you began with the Father continues into eternity. Jesus said:

John 10:27-30 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: {28} And I give unto them

eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. {29} My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. {30} I and my Father are one.

Submit to God in Christ. Come to Jesus, the Source of Eternal Life. Believe in Jesus and you shall never perish but - like Abel - the relationship you begin with God NOW shall continue into ETERNITY.

2. Submit Yourselves To God For This Is The Way To A Great Life

FOCAL James 4:6-7 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. {7} Submit yourselves therefore to God...

"God giveth more grace". There is more to grace than just salvation in the sweet by and by. God calls people to follow Him NOW. He calls us to live as Children of the Kingdom NOW.

A pastor and his wife were on vacation, so he decided to visit other churches and see how they operated. He went into one Church and saw that the Pastor had everyone stand up and shake hands with people next to them just before he started preaching. He thought that was a wonderful idea! When he got back to his Church he told the people "Next Sunday we're going to start standing up and shaking hands with those around us just before I

start preaching." One man in the audience leaned over and tapped the woman in front of him on the shoulder. He whispered, "I think that's a great idea. What do you think?" The woman whispered back, "Hey, we're not starting that friendly stuff until next Sunday!"

Over the past few years in the ministry I have often asked people "Do you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior". The response I usually get is "Yes, I have Jesus in my heart". You may think you have Jesus in your heart, but unless you have Jesus *expressed*, Jesus in your deeds and in the fruit of your lips, then you have nothing. **God gives more Grace. He resists the proud, but gives Grace to the humble.**

C.H. Spurgeon once said:

"The rule of God is so beneficial that He ought readily to be obeyed. He never commands us to do that which, in the long run, can be injurious to us; nor does He forbid us anything which can be to our real advantage. Our God is so kind, so wise, so full of loving forethought, that it must ever be in our best interest to follow His lead. ... It is madness to forsake the honorable service of the great King to become the slave of Satan. O that men would submit themselves unto God and be willing to be blessed."⁴

There is blessing in submitting to God, but cursing on the life that tries to live following self or Satan. We are saved by faith - but our faith is not dead but

living.

Consider Abraham. The Bible says that:

Romans 4:3 ... Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ. The Scripture says:

Galatians 3:8-9 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. {9} So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

We are saved by faith in what the Gospel tells us. But

Abraham, saved by faith, could not receive the blessings of faith unless he followed the Lord. The faith that SAVES is the faith that SUBMITS.

God told Abraham:

Genesis 12:1-2 ... Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: {2} And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

If Abraham had not followed God to the Promised Land he would not have been blessed. You cannot be blessed

⁴ in his sermon *The Reason Why Many Cannot Find Peace*, April 7th, 1878

unless you submit to God. The Lord promised Abraham a child in due season. At one point Abraham - *following Sarah and not God* - went into his maid Hagar and she, in turn, bore him *Ishmael*. What happened? **God resisteth the proud, but gives grace to the humble.** Because Abraham went into Hagar instead of following God the Lord held off giving Sarah the Promised Child. Dear friends, you may be saved from Egypt as Israel was saved from Egypt. You may be saved as Abraham was saved out of Ur.

You will always lose the Promised Land, the Promised Child, or the Promised Peace if you do not follow the God of Promise!

But unless you submit to the Lord - trusting only in Him - you will not be blessed. **God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble.** Abraham's foolishness with Hagar brought about the Arabs, sworn enemies of Israel even to this day.

But Abraham learned.

One day the Lord came to Abraham, and said:

Genesis 22:2 ... Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

The long awaited Child was to be sacrificed to God. What would Abraham do? **He submitted, for Abraham**

knew that God giveth greater Grace. Without arguing the old Saint took Isaac, two servants, and went where God told him to go. It took Abraham three days to get to Mount Moriah. When he got there he took Isaac, the wood, and the fire, and headed to the top of this mountain. Isaac asked his father:

Genesis 22:7 ... Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

to which Abraham replied, "**My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering**". Abraham took Isaac and bound him to the altar. He stretched out his hand to drive the knife into his child when God called out:

Genesis 22:12 ... Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

Abraham submitted to God. He looked, and saw a ram caught in the thicket, and offered up that ram instead of his son. What did God tell Abraham following the sacrifice? He said:

Genesis 22:16-18 ... By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: {17} That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; {18} And in thy

**seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;
because thou hast obeyed my voice.**

Dear Christian, you cannot be blessed unless you submit to God.

A Christian is saved by faith in Christ and blessed by submission to God.

When the trials of life overwhelm you, do not submit to worry or fear - submit to God. When tempted of the devil do not heed his hissing voice - submit to God. Submit to God in the valleys, and submit to God on the mountaintops. **God giveth greater grace.** Seek Him, seek His face, do His will, read His Word, and submit.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

