

**"True Faith and the Believer's Relationship with the World"****James 4:1-12****Part 6**

**Introduction:** This is our 6<sup>th</sup> study in James 4:1-12 in which James is dealing with the believer's relationship with the world.

So far we have seen the cost of becoming entangled in the world as a believer. It affects many areas of our lives:

1. **Social life**
2. **Prayer life**
3. **Fellowship with God**

We had even taken a close look at the life of Abram in *Genesis 12* where we were able to see him turn to the world as his faith was tested in Canaan. That one trip to Egypt which is a type of the world was very costly for Abram.

Application:

The same is true for the believer who turns to the world today and becomes entangled in the temptation and the sin. It will lead you down a path that will bring heartache to you and also to those who are around you. Many families have been broken because someone did not turn their back upon the temptation of the world.

Last week I told you that Satan uses the world in an attempt to destroy the lives and the testimony of believers.

**1 Peter 5:8**

<sup>8</sup> *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

I also explained to you that Satan will use 3 different baits in an attempt to lure you into the world.

**1 John 2:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

<sup>16</sup> *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

Here is BAIT that the enemy will use to lure you into the world.

- a. The lust of the flesh.
- b. The lust of the eyes.
- c. The pride of life.

There will be things in the world that will appeal to your old nature, there will be things in the world that will be pleasing to the eyes, and there will be things in the world that will appeal to your pride.

Last week we also started looking at what James tells us about getting free from the entanglement of the world.

## I. Freedom From the World

**Starting in verse 6 James gives the remedy which will set us free from the world.**

### 1. The Provision

**Notice James 4:6a**

There is always enough grace for us to be able to step away from the temptations of the world. When we surrender to the Spirit we will find that God has given us the grace and the power to walk away from the lure of the world.

### 2. We must surrender to God's will for our lives.

**Notice James 4:6b-7a**

James calls on his readers to do two things here that go together.

- a. They were to humble themselves.
- b. They were to submit themselves to God.

Let me quickly explain this. These people were not satisfied with what God had given them. They desired more of what the world had to offer. Here in these verses James is calling on them to accept the provisions which God had given to them even if it was very little. They were to submit to the path which God had ordained for them to walk.

Ultimately they were to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God. God had given

them what they had and He would continue to meet their needs. They were to be thankful for what they had and be content.

**Application:**

That is the very way we are to view the path which God has ordained for us also. He has given us what He desires for us to have and with that we are to be content. We must surrender to His plan for our lives.

**3. They were to resist the Devil and he would flee from them.**

**Notice James 4:7**

As I told you Satan uses the 3 baits to lure us into the world. We are to resist taking the bait. If we do resist then Satan will flee from us and move on.

**4. They were to change directions.**

**Notice James 4:8a**

There is both a command and a promise in this verse that is very special. James told his readers as well as you and I that when we find ourselves being pulled into the world that we should stop going in the direction of the world and we should go the opposite way and draw near to God. This is REPENTANCE! This is realizing that you are going in the wrong direction and then making a U TURN to get back where we should be.

But there is much more here that I want you to consider.

When a believer gets lured into the world it will completely consume their time and their energy. So for the believer to draw near to God is going to take a complete change in their life. It will take them focusing their time and their energy into their relationship with the Lord. It is not easy but the rewards are amazing.

Let me just say that many believers will listen to a message such as this and they will desire to get back close to the Lord. They draw a line in the sand and they say that from this day forward they will seek to deepen their relationship with the Lord. So they start out great. But a few days or weeks into it they grow tired and they do not continue to follow through with their promise of commitment. The reason is because they do not want it bad enough.

I can assure you that if you desire something that the world has that appeals to you, you will expend every ounce of energy you have to lay hold of that. The reason is because you

really desire to have it. So if you really desire to draw close to the Lord you will give up that which steals away your energy and your focus and you will stay true to the mission. You have to really desire to draw near to God and you must be willing to make sacrifices and to cut from your life that which should not be there.

Then comes the promise: God will draw near to you. I want to show you how much God desires for you to come home and draw near to Him.

## Notice Luke 15:11-24

Let me show you a few more verses that show you God's desire for you.

### 1 Chronicles 28:9a

*<sup>9</sup> And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee;*

### Jeremiah 29:10-13

*<sup>10</sup> For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.*

*<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

*<sup>12</sup> Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.*

*<sup>13</sup> And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

So the promise is that if we draw near to God He will draw near to us.

**5. They were to clean their hands and their hearts.**

### Notice James 4:8

When I think of cleansing the hands I realize that there are 2 things that need to be done.

**a. Let go of what you are grabbing on to.**

If you are entangled in the world then there is something which you are chasing. You need to let go of that for it is through what you are grabbing that you are becoming contaminated.

**b. Confess your sins to the God.****1 John 1:9**

*<sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Let me word this in a way that will help you to grasp what James is saying here. FORSAKE THE SIN AND CONFESS THE SIN TO GOD!

When I think of purifying the heart I think of 2 things also.

- a. Confession again.
- b. Fill your mind with the Word of God.

**Hebrews 4:12**

*<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

If you are entangled in the world I can safely say there are 2 things that you have no time for in your life:

1. Prayer
2. Bible reading

You will not pray because you cannot face God because of the sin in your life. You do not desire to read the Word for 2 reasons.

- a. You are filled up on the junk food of this world which takes away your hunger for the Bread of Life.
- b. The Word is sharp and it cuts as you read.

Let me say if you desire to get back to where you need to be you must get in the Word. It is alive and it is sharp. It will slice and cut away that which should not be in your life. It is a mirror and it will show every speck of sin that has become attached to your life. Let the Word and the Spirit work in your life as you read through God's Word. It will refine you and it will cut the world from your life.

Let us look at James 4:8 again.

We must pay close attention to the end of this verse. James calls them DOUBLE MINDED.

This is what the world does to the believer. It makes him or her DOUBLE MINDED. Let me refresh your memory for a moment.

**James 1:8**

*<sup>8</sup> A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

This is another reason why we must separate from the world. It is impossible to divide you allegiance. Again James is thinking of the Sermon on the Mount.

**Matthew 6:19-24**

*<sup>19</sup> Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:*

*<sup>20</sup> But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*

*<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

*<sup>22</sup> The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*

*<sup>23</sup> But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

*<sup>24</sup> No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

**Conclusion:**

God desires for you to draw near to Him.