



Title: Revival

Date: November 26, 2023

Scripture Text: James 4:7-12

Series: The Behavior of a Believer

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We are continuing the series The Behavior of a Believer, a study of the book of James. Today we continue our look at chapter 4 and consider what it looks like to experience personal revival. Many times, we may feel like our walk with God is good but look up one day to realize how far off track we've gotten. It isn't that God has changed. We've gotten off track by not living with intention. We've grown comfortable and lax with the time we spend with God, in prayer, in His word and with His people. In today's passage we look at keys to personal revival. To do this, let's take a look at two components; getting right with God ([James 4:7-10](#)) and getting right with others ([James 4:11-12](#)).

I. Get Right with God ([James 4:7-10](#))

[James 4:6](#) highlights that God gives grace to the humble. Our response is to submit to God ([vs. 7a](#)). This is our way of humbling ourselves before Him. To get right with God, these three steps need to be included: Submission ([vs. 7](#)), Purification ([vs. 8](#)), and Brokenness ([vss. 9-10](#)). To follow these three steps requires taking ourselves off the throne of our lives and allowing Christ to take the throne and be Lord.

- [James 4:7](#) lists three items beginning with *submitting to God*. What are they?
 - How important is it to follow these three items in order?
 - What's the danger of attempting to *resist the devil* without first *submitting to God*?
 - What is the likelihood of your success?
 - What does it look like to submit to God?
 - How would areas such as how you make decisions change if your fully submitted to God?
- [James 4:8](#) describes three elements for personal purification. What are they?
 - How do we *draw near to God* if He is everywhere?
 - Why is it important for us to initiate *drawing near*?
 - Describe a time God felt far away? Why was that?
 - *Cleansing your hands* addresses your outward actions. What are outward actions that need to change in your life?
 - *Purifying your heart* addresses inward attitudes. What inward attitudes do you need to change?

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- How will drawing near to God help you cleanse your hands and purify your heart?
- [James 4:9-10](#) describes our brokenness before God. This is having broken hearts over the things that breaks God's heart. That's doesn't mean we can't have times of joy and laughter. But we should recognize sin for what it is and repent immediately.
 - What are reasons you may be hesitant to repent when convicted of sin?
 - What does it mean for your heart to grow hard toward sin?
 - How do you prevent a hard heart?
- What does [vs. 10](#) describe will happen when we humble ourselves before God?

II. Get Right with Others (James 4:11-12)

If you're going to get right with God, you must get right with others. [Matthew 5:23-24](#) describes how God wants you to be reconciled to others before approaching Him in worship. We are to build one another up, not tear each other down ([1 Thess. 5:11](#)). We should do what we can to build one another up within the church and to be reflections of Jesus' love outside the church ([1 Cor. 5:12-13](#)).

- What are ways Christians judge one another.
- How does that tear down others and impact the effectiveness of the church?
- What are specific things that believers can do to encourage one another?
- How can humbling ourselves before God help us be an encouragement to other believers?
- List three ways you can encourage another believer today.
- How can being "Jesus' with skin on" impact those around us?

Every wicked act dulls the sense of our thoughts and gives birth to arrogance. For although it is necessary for each one to examine himself and behave according to God's will, many people do not do this but prefer to mind the business of others. If they happen to see others suffering, it seems that they forget their own weaknesses and set about criticizing them and slandering them. They condemn them, not knowing that they suffer from the same things as the people they have criticized, and in so doing they condemn themselves.

Cyril of Alexandria (c. 376 – 444)