

A letter to the dispersed from James

Lesson 17- Men to Men Bible Study

Presented January 15, 2025

James 4:4-7

Infidelity to God

Divided loyalty

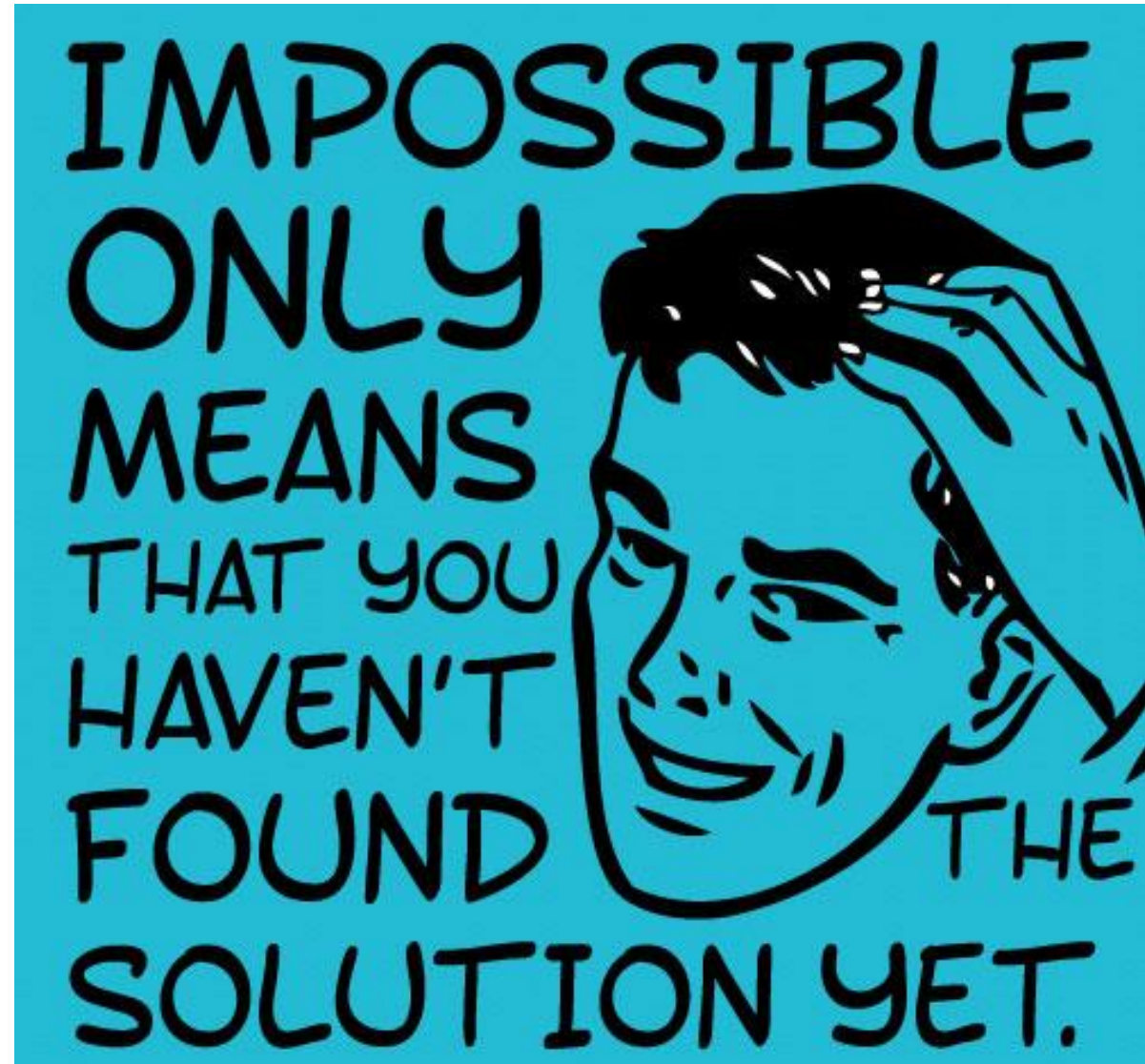


**MEN'S
MINISTRY**

The Church

Impossible demands of JAMES

- Consider it all joy when you run into trouble 1:2
- Have faith without doubting 1:6
- Hang in there when things are not going well 1:12
- Do not be deceived 1:16
- Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger 1:19
- Get rid of all that is not pleasing to God 1:21
- Be a doer of the word 1:22
- Don't think you are special because you are saved 2:1
- Never discriminate because of social status 2:5
- Love your neighbor as yourself 2:8
- Keep every law 2:10
- You are required to have both faith and works 2:14
- Control your tongue 3:3
- Motives can change our prayer results 4:3



The Second Coming of the Church. George Barna

Despite the activity coming from thousands of congregations, the Church in America is losing influence and adherents faster than any other major institution.

At the risk of sounding like an alarmist, I believe that the Church in America has no more than five years – perhaps even less – to turn itself around and begin again to affect the culture, rather than be affected by it.

We've reached a time of Christian invisibility.

James 4:4-7

4) **You** adulteresses, do **you** not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, **whoever** wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5) Or do **you** think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

6) But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

7) **Submit therefore to God.** Resist the devil and he will flee from **you**.

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Renewed submission to God's will

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Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus answered him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind’. This is the first and great commandment. And there is a second like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’. The whole of the Law and the Prophets depends on these two commandments.”

Renewed submission to God's purpose

7) **Submit therefore to God.**

Matthew 18-20

But Jesus came and spoke these words to them, “All power in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. **You**, then, are to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you and, remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- The devil is real
- The devil is the enemy of the church
- I Peter 5:8-9 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹[\[a\]](#) So resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your [\[b\]](#) brothers and sisters who are in the world.
- Are we any different from the world?

Summation

James 4:4-7 emphasizes the importance of submitting to God and resisting the devil, highlighting that true fulfillment comes from aligning oneself with God's will rather than pursuing worldly desires; it essentially says that if you humble yourself before God and actively oppose the devil, he will flee from you.



Key Points:

Adulterous relationship with the world:

Verse 4 describes the desire for worldly things as spiritual adultery, meaning actively seeking fulfillment outside of God's plan.

Pride and self-sufficiency:

The passage criticizes the attitude of thinking you can achieve things on your own without relying on God's grace.

Submission to God:

The core message of verse 7 is to "submit yourselves to God" which means acknowledging God's authority and aligning your will with His.

Resisting the devil:

By actively opposing the devil's temptations and schemes, you can gain victory in spiritual warfare.

Application:

Examine your motives:

Reflect on whether your pursuits are driven by genuine needs or worldly desires.

Humility before God:

Acknowledge your dependence on God and seek His guidance in all aspects of life.

Spiritual warfare:

Be intentional about resisting temptations and actively standing against the devil's influence.

Discussion Questions:

How does verse 4 illustrate the dangers of worldly desires?

What does it mean to "submit yourselves to God"?

How can you apply the concept of "resisting the devil" in your daily life?

What are some practical ways to cultivate a closer relationship with God to strengthen your stance against temptation