

HOW TO HAVE PERSONAL REVIVAL

James 4:7-12

INTRODUCTION:

1. The word, **revival**, means to **"live again"**
 - a) "**Vival**" means life.
 - b) **Re-vival** is an experience which can only happen to God's children.
2. Charles Finney said, **"Revival is a new beginning of obedience to God."**
3. Gypsy Smith, used to describe revival like this: ***If you want to have a revival, draw a circle, step into that circle and then say, "Lord, send a revival and let it begin in this circle."***
4. Vs 6
 - a) **"But he gives more grace"**
 - 1) When we yield ourselves to God and make him our only love, God will open the windows of heaven and pour out his grace. His favor to you.
5. Vs 6b
 - a) **Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud"**
 - 1) To oppose is a military term in which an army is arrayed against.
 - 2) Pride is repulsive to God and reminds Him of Satan.
6. Vs 6c
 - a) **"but gives grace to the humble"**
 - 1) Humility is the position we assume in order to experience God's greater grace.

SO HOW DO WE EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL WITH GOD?

I. SUBMIT TO GOD

(There are two poles) like a magnet.

A. ALIGNMENT WITH GOD

1. Vs 7
 - a) **"Submit yourselves therefore to God"**
2. Submission is not a popular concept.
 - a) But you cannot experience intimacy or personal revival without it.

3. The principle of submission is throughout the Bible.
 - a) We are to submit to Government.
 - 1) **Romans 13:1**
 - b) Wives are to submit to their husbands.
 - 1) **Ephesians 5:22**
 - c) Children to their parents.
 - 1) **Ephesians 6:1**

4. "**Submission**" is a military term meaning "**placing yourself in your proper rank**"
 - a) Therefore we are to place ourselves under the authorities God has placed over us.

5. **Romans 12:1**
 - a) "**that you present you bodies**"

6. For me I find that this is something I need to do often.

B. RESIST THE DEVIL

1. **VERY IMPORTANT:** As you submit to God that means that you counteract the devil's presence.

2. **Vs 7b**
 - a) "**Resist the devil**"
 - 1) "**devil**" - Gk. *dialolos* = English *adversary* - diabolical

3. **Matthew 4:1-11**

4. **When is the devil going to attack you?**

5. **James 4:7b**
 - a) "**Resist**" - that's a command.
 - 1) "**Resist**" - means to take a stand

6. **Ephesians 6:13**

7. **1 Peter 5:8-9**

8. **Remember this:** The devil can't make you do anything!!!!

II. DRAW NEAR TO GOD

A. GOT TO HAVE A PLAN

1. Vs 8

a) *"Draw near to God"*

1) It was the word that was used for the priests who went into the temple into the presence of God.

2. *Ephesians 2:13*

3. *Psalm 145:18*

4. *Zechariah 1:3*

5. *James 4:8*

a) *"Draw near to God"*

b) *"and He will draw near to you"*

6. Every day of our life we ought to claim that promise.

III. I NEED TO DEAL WITH SIN

1. Vs 8b

a) *"Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you doubleminded"*

2. Vs 9

a) *"Be wretched afflicted and mourn and weep".*

b) *"Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom."*

A. DEAL WITH SIN THOROUGHLY

1. Vs 8

a) Hands and hearts.

2. Have you ever heard of **"eye/hand"** coordination?

3. Spiritually to be good Christians we need **"Heart/hand"** coordination.

a) *Hand represents your outward life.*

1) Your actions. Deeds

b) *Heart represents your inner life.*

1) Your attitude or disposition. Motives

4. *Psalm 24:2-3*

5. **Personal Revival** - if we want personal revival, -that new closeness with the Lord, then we have to deal with our sins thoroughly.

6. Allow the Holy Spirit to dig down deep into your heart which is the root of all of the problems of our life- - things that originate in the heart.

B. GET SERIOUS ABOUT PERSONAL SIN

1. Vs 9

2. When we talk about matters of personal revival and dealing with sin, there comes a time when you have to get serious.

3. Sin must be dealt with.

4. It's all about Personal Revival and Fellowship with God.

IV. HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE GOD

A. YOUR DISPOSITION SHOWS IN YOUR SURRENDER

1. Vs 10

a) *"Humble yourself before the Lord, and he will exalt you"*

2. To humble oneself just means to get down where you belong.

B. YOUR DISPOSITION SHOWS IN YOUR SPEECH

1. Vs 11

2. He's talking about criticism.

a) He's talking about slander.

b) He's talking about gossip.

c) He's talking about the way we who claim we are Christians talk to and about one another.

3. Be sure that your language is not detrimental to people.