

The Sources and the Sequences of the Solution

Chapter 6

New Testament Audio Lesson # 78



Objective: To understand James' practical advice about sanctification as we wait for His ultimate solution



Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

—James 4:7-8, 10

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

—James 5:16

James writes that there is no such thing as faith alone. Faith saves us, and good works validate the faith. Our actions show what we believe. James also says that sanctification is the solution to the sequence and seduction of sin. He urges us to purify our hearts and not be double-minded.

James then moves into the sequence of God's ultimate solution to the world's problems: divine intervention through the Second Coming of Christ. Like other New Testament writers, he ends on a positive note: Christ is coming again. James encourages us to be patient, and as we wait, not to talk badly about each other.

James also discusses the life of the Church. We are to minister to each other, bless each other with our spiritual gifts, and love and care for each other. We should be honest with each other, confess our sins, and then pray for each other so that we may experience spiritual healing.

James also writes about faith healing. If anyone is sick, he should call for the elders to anoint him with oil and pray for him. The sick person must have faith to call the elders, and the elders must have faith to pray over him. It is not the oil used to anoint the sick person that heals but rather, it is God answering the prayer of faith.

1. True or False: Our good works save us.
2. True or False: When we resist the devil, he runs away from us.
3. True or False: Submitting to God is an important part of our sanctification.
4. True or False: Physical healing is always God's will.



Choose all answers that apply.

5. James says in several places that we are to humble ourselves before the Lord. How does this fit with the passage (James 4:13-16) about boasting of our plans for the future?
- If we are humble before the Lord, we will boast only of Him.
 - We should never plan or boast about the future.
 - It is okay to boast about our plans for the future because He gave us our gifts and abilities.
 - It is always God's will to make our plans successful.
6. Why do James and other writers end their books with Jesus' Second Coming?
- They are overly optimistic about it.
 - They do not care about this life at all.
 - They do not want to talk about suffering.
 - They want to encourage their readers who are suffering.
7. What is the correct definition of the word *confession*?
- To say you are sorry many times.
 - To look sad, say many prayers, and go on a pilgrimage.
 - To tell the Pastor all the wrong things you have done.
 - To agree with God and others that what you have done is wrong.
8. Why do believers not confess their sins or share their struggles with each other?
- We do not want people to judge us.
 - We are afraid to be vulnerable with others.
 - We want people to think our lives are perfect.
 - All of the above

9. What are some reasons why you should confess your sins to others? (*Choose the ones that apply to you*)

- a. To encourage others
- b. To be humble and obedient
- c. To be accountable to others
- d. So others can pray for you.

10. What are we to do with our spiritual gifts?

- a. Show them off
- b. Boast about them
- c. Bless and edify the church with them
- d. Use them for our glory

11. When elders come together and pray for healing, what brings about the healing?

- a. The anointing oil
- b. The elders' faith
- c. The priest
- d. God, answering the prayer of faith



Why is submitting ourselves to God so important? What areas of your life and heart do you need to submit to God?

What are some ways you can draw near or come close to God? Which of these things can you start doing this week?

Do you confess your sins and struggles with other believers? If not, do you know and trust a fellow believer enough to share and ask for prayer? Do others feel comfortable sharing with you, knowing that you will keep everything confidential? If not, how can you change that?



Thank God for James' conversion and for his letter. Ask God to help you submit to Him, humble yourself before Him, and love Him more every day. Ask Him to help you resist the devil and his evil schemes. Thank God that when you draw near to Him, He draws near to you. Ask Him to help you care and pray for others in the Church and to be obedient to share your troubles with them.



Going Deeper

1. In chapters 3 through 5, how do you apply the way James profiles the sources of the solutions that win the battle over sin? _____

2. How do you personally apply what he writes in chapter 3 about the tongue being a solution?

3. How does the wisdom that is from above overcome the wisdom that is from beneath, and some of the problems of a follower of Christ? _____

4. How do you personally apply the cluster of commandments that James provides in chapter 4:7-17? _____

5. How do you personally apply the exhortation to consider the patience of Job and of the prophets? _____

6. What is your personal application of the way James presents the ultimate solution to be the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? _____

7. What do we learn and how do you personally apply the picture James gives in chapter 5 of how a New Testament Church functioned? (Consider 5: 13-20) _____
