

Drawing Near to God

Scripture

"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [you] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [you] double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and [your] joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (Jas 4:6-10 NKJV)

Commentary

Pride comes easily to us. In fact, we rarely even recognize our arrogance because pride is so natural to us. However, if we desire to have the Lord near us we must humble ourselves. We worship by bowing our heads not by shaking our fists.

Grace is promised to the humble. When we acknowledge our dependence upon God, and trust in Him, He gives us more and more grace. He resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. What does it mean then to humble ourselves?

First, and foremost, it means to submit our will to the Father's will. As a believer there are two great forces acting upon you, sinful flesh and the Holy Spirit. What is our natural tendency? It is to sin and be self-sufficient. However, believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God and have power over sin. Still, we must willfully choose to humble ourselves. We must draw near to God.

Second, it means to resist the devil. This means to fight against his schemes. I know you have heard the term resisting arrest. That is what they call it when a police man wants to put you in cuffs and take you to the police station and you struggle to keep him from doing his job. That is a pretty good picture of resisting the devil. He is trying to subdue you, and you must fight against him.

The wonderful promise is that our resistance will cause the devil to flee from us. Resist a police officer and you will likely be injured. Resist the most powerful fallen angel and he will run away? Obviously, we will have some help. God will draw near the same time you are resisting the devil. God will lift you up and protect you.

However, my friends you must never submit to the devil and his temptations or God will flee from you, or at least pull back. If you are saved, He will withdraw His confidence from you. If this continues, you will not be able to discern whether you are His or not. He will leave you in this awful state to humble you and cause you to seek Him once again.

If you never truly knew Him, then He may simply give you over to a depraved mind to fill up the measure of wrath against you. Oh, friend, flee from the devil lest this be your end. Why should you perish when there is an abundance of grace for the humble? Draw near to God and He will draw near to you, amen.