



International Bible Lesson

International Bible Study Commentary
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How to Receive More Grace James 4:1-10

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble
(James 4:6—KJV).

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE” (James 4:6—NASB).

But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble”
(James 4:6—NRSV).

James tells us why everyone needs more grace. Even as believers in Christ, we sometimes still have cravings and passions within us that rob us of our peace by making war within us. The war within us then spills out and harms others, even those we love. Some crave something so badly that if they cannot have it, they engage in disputes and conflicts. Sadly, James recognized that some, even in the church, could let their ruling passions lead them to commit murder (or at least lie about someone to assassinate their character). When some pray, James wrote, “You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions” (James 4:3). Hence, we need more grace and power to overcome our temptations to pray wrongly and do wrongly. We need more grace to give us peace within, peace with God, and peace with others. When we feel cravings and conflicts within us striving for mastery over us, our praying the Serenity Prayer can open the door to our receiving more grace from God: “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.”

In addition to praying the Serenity Prayer, we need to humble ourselves to receive the grace we need. James wrote that recognizing our wrongs should move us to mourn, weep, and seek grace to help us make the changes we need to make. When we draw near to God, God will draw near to us, and He will lift us up and help us purify our hearts.

Thinking Further

1. What is one cause of troubles in the church?
2. Why can coveting lead to fighting and quarrelling?
3. Why doesn't God give us everything we ask?
4. What does a friend of the world make himself?
5. What does James tell sinners inside and outside the church to do?