



August 24, 2025 | Matt Magee

Series: James

Sermon Title: Pursuing Humble, Undivided Devotion to the Lord

Main Scripture: James 4:7-10

[Oak Grove Sermons Online](#)

OUTLINE

1. The Path to Peace with God: Submit · Resist · Draw Near
 - SUBMIT to God's unlimited authority as the Lord of your life,
 - RESIST the devil and he will flee, and
 - DRAW NEAR to God through thorough, heartfelt, genuine repentance.
2. Why Do We Resist the Cure?
3. Jesus is the Humble Victor!
4. Living the Humble Life
 - Submission becomes joy — We trust the One we submit to.
 - Resistance becomes possible — The devil flees because Christ's victory is ours.
 - Drawing near becomes welcome — The torn curtain invites us in (Heb. 10:19–22).
 - Cleansing and purifying become natural — Not to earn love, but because we already have it.
- Practical examples:
 - When conflict arises, pray before you plot.
 - When temptation whispers, remember Jesus' stronger word.
 - When guilt lingers, confess and draw near — He will draw near to you.
 - When pride flares, kneel — literally or figuratively — and remember your place is safe under His authority.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Group Leader: See if your group has reviewed the latest newsletter and briefly skim together if needed. [NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE](#)

Icebreaker: What's one everyday situation where you've had to "submit" (e.g., to rules, authority, or instructions)? How did it feel?

Head (Understanding Scripture)

1. James gives three main imperatives (commands): *submit to God, resist the devil, and draw near to God*. How are these connected? Why does submission comes first?
2. What does James mean by calling his audience *double-minded*? How does that image help us understand divided loyalty?

Heart (Reflecting Personally)

3. Which of the three idols identified in the sermon — *control, comfort, or approval* — most often keeps you from humbly submitting to God? Why?
4. How does it change your view of humility to remember that Jesus Himself submitted to the Father, resisted the devil, and drew near in perfect obedience?

Hands (Living It Out)

5. What would it look like for you this week to *draw near to God* through "thorough, heartfelt, genuine repentance"? Be specific.
6. How can we as a group encourage one another to resist the devil and stand firm in Christ's victory, not our own strength?
7. James promises that if we humble ourselves before the Lord, *He will exalt us*. What might that exaltation look like in everyday life — and how is it different from worldly success?

Suggestion for a closing prayer:

Pray together, each member offering a short sentence prayer of humility and dependence: "Lord, I humble myself before You in [specific area]."