

Submit To God

Text : **James 4: 4-10 ; Gen. 11: 1-9**

S#1.

A. This lesson will center on the first half of one short verse :

James 4: 7 – Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

B. What does it mean to submit to God.

1. Submit translates a common Greek term : { *hupotasso* }
 - a. Compound word : *hupo* “under” + *tasso* “to arrange” = to arrange under
 - b. Definition : 1 to arrange under, to subordinate. 2 to subject, put in subjection.
3 to subject one’s self, obey. 4 to submit to one’s control
 - c. Translated as : **Submit (one’s) self to, be in subjection, put in subjection, put under**
2. Commonly used as a military term meaning : “to arrange troops divisions in a military fashion under the command of a leader.
3. In this verse “*hupotasso*” is in the middle voice ... not forced into submission.
 - a. Indicates that in our own interest we bring ourselves into submission under God.
 - b. Active = subject is acting ; Passive = subject is acted upon

C. We will attempt to observe four aspects of our submission to God :

S#2.

1. Obstacles to submitting one’s self to God.
2. Reasons to submit to God.
3. How to submit to God.
4. Blessings of submission to God.

I. There are obstacles to submitting to God.

S#3.

A. By his very nature, man is independent and rebellious to authority.

S#4.

1. Satan tempted Adam and Eve with the desire for independence.
 - a. God said, but “*He just wants to keep you under Him.*”
 - b. Just look at this fruit; use your own judgment. (*not looking out for you*)
2. **I Cor. 2: 14 – But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.**
3. Remember : The tower of Babel , Jonah , the Pharisees , etc.

B. The personal desires of man motivate him to seek his own.

S#5.

1. **James 4: 1 – What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you?
Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?**

2. The thing that makes submission to God hard is not living for self-satisfaction.

Eph. 2: 1-3 – And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you **S#6.** formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

C. The world has a strong attraction to the nature of man.

1. Ever since Adam and Eve man has wanted what was forbidden.
 - a. Eve knew she should not, but her desire was strong enough to override reason.
 - b. Today, a woman knows she should not, but the flattery of her coworker is strong.
2. **James 4: 4** – You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the **S#7.** world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
3. **I John 2: 15** – Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

D. Satan and his minions strive to influence people away from God.

S#8.

1. Satan wants to destroy you any way he can.

I Pet. 5: 8 – Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
2. The agents of Satan constantly “prowls around” seeking to destroy your soul.
 - a. One can entertain an angel with knowing it.

Heb. 13: 2 – Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.
 - b. God is not the only one who has angels. (*messengers*)

II Cor. 11: 13-15 – For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, **S#9.** disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. **14** No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. **15** Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

II. What are some reasons one should submit to God?

S#10.

A. God is our creator so He owns us.

S#11.

1. **Psa. 24: 1** – The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.
2. **I Pet. 4: 19** – Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

- a. No matter how dark the horizon, we can trust our creator.
- * b. “*He is too wise to error and too good to be unkind*” (from old sermon notes)
- 3. All creation submits to God’s rule.
 - a. All nature yields to his laws.
 - b. Angels submit to His rule.
 - c. Thus, to resist God is against one’s own self-interest.

B. God is the almighty sovereign ruler of the universe.

S#12.

- 1. Who can stand against the power of God ? *We are but dust in the wind !*
 - a. He spoke the world into existence and destroyed it with a flood.
 - b. **Eph. 3: 21** – Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.
- 2. God is patient, but eventually he will require every knee to bow before Him.
 - a. **Rom. 14: 10** – For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.
 11 For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God.”
 - b. The question is, Will we bow willingly or be forced to our knees?

C. It is God who sustains us. (*Bear in mind which side our bread is buttered on.*)

S#13.

- 1. **Col. 1: 16-17** – For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.
 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
- 2. **Acts 17: 26-28** – He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.

S#14.

D. God loves us and saves for us.

S#15.

- 1. What man would die to save his enemies ?
 Rom. 5: 8,10 – But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
- 2. We are urged to follow God’s example of love.
 Matt. 5: 44-45 – But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

S#16.

III. How does one go about submitting to God?

S#17.

A. He commits his heart to obey the laws of God.

S#18.

1. Those who love God, love His law.

Psa. 119: 97-98 –O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

2. The inspired Apostles linked obedience to God's law to relationship with Him.

I John 2: 3-5a – By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. **4** The one who says, " I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; **5** but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

S#19.

B. He commits himself to obey the civil representatives of God.

S#20.

1. Jesus told a parable illustrating that rejection of the prophets He sent to represent Him was a rejection of Him. (**Matt. 21: 33-41**)

2. God ordained civil authorities to represent Him in the administration of justice.

Rom. 13: 1-2 – Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

C. He learns about God with a view toward becoming like Him.

S#21.

1. God desires men to be like Him.

Gen. 1: 26 – Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

2. Our eternal resurrected body will be in His image.

Phil. 3: 20-21 – For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **21** who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

S#22.

3. Our eternal hope is in allowing Christ to live through us.

- a. **Col. 1: 27** – ...has now been manifested to His saints, **27** to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

S#23.

- b. We strive to be able to say about ourselves as the Apostle said about himself.

Gal. 2: 20 – I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

D. Love must be the motivating factor for submission.

1. God does not want us to submit to Him just because we fear Hell.
2. God does not want us to submit to Him just because it is our duty to do so.
3. **I John 4: 19** – We love, because He first loved us.

IV. There are blessings that result from submitting to God.**S#24.****A. Totally surrendering to God gives one peace in one's heart.****S#25.**

1. God urges His children to lay their fears at His feet.
I Pet. 5: 6-7 – Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.
2. Being free from anxiety, we have peace of mind.
Phil. 4: 6-7 – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

S#26.**B. It creates a secure and loving relationship with God.****S#27.**

1. In Christ we have no fear of condemnation.
 - a. **I John 4: 18-19** – There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.
 - b. **Rom. 8: 1-2** – Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.
2. In Christ we have the assurance of our salvation.
I John 5: 13 – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

S#28.**C. When one is surrendered to God, his advocacy for Him is credible.****S#29.**

1. **“Do as I say, not as I do.”** Is not credible trying to persuade people to be believers.
2. We must show them the way by leaving footprints they can follow.
I Cor. 11: 1 – Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

D. Total submission gives one the anticipation of eternity with God.**S#30.**

- II Tim. 4: 7-8** – I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

CONCLUSION :

- A. Jesus invites you to surrender to His Lordship while you can receive the blessing.** S#31.
Matt. 11: 29 – Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."
- B. One day every person ever born will submit to God's sovereign reign.** S#32.
Rom. 14: 10 – For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. **11** For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God."
- C. To obey gospel is to surrender to the Lordship of Christ / God.**
Rom. 6: 16-19 – Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, **19** I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. S#33.
- D. Have you submitted your eternal destiny to God's care and keeping ?** S#35.

INVITATION :

S#36. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**James 4: 4-10**

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? **6** But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but, gives grace to the humble." **7** Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Genesis 11: 1-9

1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. **2** It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. **3** They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. **4** They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." **5** The Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. **6** The Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. **7** Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." **8** So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. **9** Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.