

# Breaking the Back of Sin to Strengthen the Inner Man

Studies in James 4:5:10

one week until Father's Day...

## Thesis:

When we commit to break the back of sin - we are growing in true freedom and ability and our new man - our inner man - the heart is strengthened to have victory over sin.

From that position of growing maturity - you will be in a place of influencing other's for Christ.

**Connection:Illustration** from 2 Corinthians 3:16 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

?where is the Spirit?

## Read Romans 8:1-11

- key words/phrases: "condemned sin in the flesh" vs 3
- "requirement of the law...fulfilled" vs. 4
- "who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit"
- unsaved described as "live according to the flesh" & "set their minds"
- "minds" vs 5-6 = "death" the opposite is "life and peace"
- "fleshly set mind" = hostility to God
- "does not submit to God's law indeed it cannot" vs 7
- "those in the flesh cannot please God" vs 8

Your Identity vs 9 (de = but ESV trans "however") "not in the flesh"

vs. 9 "anyone" (who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him)

vs. 10 "the body is dead because of sin" (it must be revived continually)"

THATS WHY THERE IS A VERSE 11...

11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

WHEN YOU GET THE SPIRIT - YOU GET CHRIST AND WHEN YOU GET CHRIST YOU GET THE FATHER....

THE TRINITY LIVES IN YOU...

there is hope...

what if the Spirit of God is grieved in your life?

Is Freedom gone? Does the Holy Spirit come and go. No.

But...Freedom is lessened when sin is running free and I am acting like a slave again!!

## Biblical Context About God's Feeling About Sin

How could it be?

Sin.

### READ 1 Thessalonians 5:19-24

1 Thessalonians 5:19 do not quench the Spirit -Quench "*to cause an action, state or faculty to cease to function or exist, quench put out extinguish,*"

### READ Ephesians 4:25-32

**Ephesians 4:25** Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. **26** Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **27** and give no opportunity to the devil. **28** Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. **29** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **32** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Two Things:

1. as God in Christ forgave you - the debt of gratitude
2. it is possible to grieve the very Spirit of God -  
do not grieve the Holy Spirit - grieve "*to cause severe mental or emotional distress, vex, irritate, offend or insult.*"

### The puritans held to the "unaffectedness of God"

Some today are puritanical in this regard.

Maybe it is easier to put up with a god that we imagine because we don't have to worry that our actions are ever going to actually hurt Him. In our mind He is beyond being bothered by us.

Look at the passages that surround the command to "not grieve the Holy Spirit"

Notice something?

Paul - in the practical part of Ephesians - is going after sin - vs. 26 be angry and sin not - don't let the sun go down.

vs. 27 give no opportunity to the devil

vs. 28 don't be a thief and steal but labor doing honest work so you can share with needy

vs. 29 don't use foul language (corrupting talk) but only such as is good for building up

**vs. 30 has to do with motivation against sin!!!!!!!**

1 Thessalonians 5:19 KEPT BLAMELESS IN YOUR WHOLE SPIRIT AND SOUL AND BODY

context: vs **22** abstain from every form of evil **23** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

There is a fight against sin here! abstain from the obvious sins - or the biggy sins...no every form - whatever minute thing that sin brings - because the prayer is that your whole spirit

and soul and body is to be kept blameless.

Oh how we harbor sin.  
We give it safe harbor.  
We make allowances for it.

Paul is after victory.  
Why because God is too.

**Break the Back** - take the fight out of the sin - "break the back" of a task means to get the hard part out of the way.

Anger was a big deal in the Ephesians passage - be angry and sin not.

Think about this...

"could it be men, that we are just not "mad" enough - that we are mad at the wrong thing - we need to be as mad as God is at sin - because it is stealing and killing and destroying our lives and the lives of our family and worse yet it hurts the God who saved us - What if we turned our anger around and got mad enough to break the power of sin that is holding us back"

**Can we do that? Not in our own strength - not our own emotional reservoir -**

**But God can and will help us...it is by His Word...  
That is what Jesus used in the day of temptation....**

**The Law of the Lord is perfect (not just good...but perfect...complete and able) - reviving the soul  
Psalm 19:7 Truth NUGGET!!!**

**One More Passage...**

**2 Timothy 4:**

**4** I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. **3** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **4** and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

reprove - to scrutinize or examine carefully, to bring to light, expose, set forth  
rebuke - to express strong disapproval of someone, censure, warn  
exhort - to come alongside to help...

And of course the preaching of the Word would abide these methods...reproof, rebuke, exhortation - because the Word itself follows that pattern...look up in

### **2 Timothy to chapter 3...**

**16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction**, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

vs. 17 may be complete - perfect - like His God - be holy as I am holy - not put in his place - not "knocked off his pedestal" - but for his good!!!!!!!

**Is This about a new "law" (the Law of the Lord is perfect)**

### **John 6:63 Disclaimer**

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life

*1 John 2:3 we have come to know Him if we keep His commandments...*

*"teaching them all things I have commanded you" Matthew 28*

*"a new commandment I give unto you" John 13:34 & 1 John 2:7*

*"love one another"*

### **The Atmosphere**

James is just such a book...not for the faint - lot's of rebuke and correction and strong language....

filled with reproof, rebukes...and exhortation...

'James' is part of the Law of the Lord - Scripture...that is complete...perfect...able to **revive** the sin sick soul...

### **Theme Passage - James 4:5-10**

**5** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? **6** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." **7** Submit yourselves 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 wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 4

### **Immediate context: James**

1. A very tough style - rebuke and exhortation is James method.

- a. 4:4 "you adulterous people -do you know know?" (rebuke)
- b. 4:11 "do not speak evil against one another, brothers" (exhortation)
- c. 4:12 "who are you to judge your neighbor?" (rebuke)
- d. 4:14 "yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring" (exhortation)
- e. 5:13 "Come now, you who say" (exhortation)
- f. 5:1 "Come now, you rich" (exhortation)

## Overall context: James

2. Unmasking the current human condition of believers (Paul said it is not enough to be human)

- a. Ch 1 vs. 3 they were being tested (Paul tested the Corinthians to see if they would be obedient)
- b. it was apparent that wisdom was lacking ch. 1 vs. 5
- c. doubt will not cut it - obviously we fall into doubt far too often 1:7
- d. some had fallen into the trap of thinking their money meant something to God 1:10
- e. 1:12 "blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial" - blessed
- f. hearing and doing the Word don't always come together = compromise...vs 22 be doers of the Word and not hearers only...
- f. chapter 2 partiality is a sin...
- g. 2:14 faith without works is dead. Demons believe intellectually and go to hell because they did not and will not receive and therefore obey.
- h. 3: Taming the tongue is not possible but we must tame it...somehow...how?  
ANSWER = the meekness of wisdom...vs 13 chapter 3 vs. 17 the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. vs. 18 and a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 4:5-10 HOLDS SOME KEYS...

How do we think about God determines so much of how we actually live.

**5** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? **6** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." **7** Submit yourselves 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 wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

suppose - dock - do you "think" - is it "probable thinking"

**What Spirit? the human spirit? or His Spirit?**

God created man and breathed life - gave Him life as a physical and a spiritual being. So an argument could be made...that God is jealous over the life by right of creation...

## **But what is the context?**

1:1 to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion - the Israel of God - that we have been grafted into

1:2 "count it all joy my brothers"

"The Spirit that He has caused/made to dwell in us." vs. 5

He yearns jealously over...

God desires all men to come to repentance...but He yearns jealously over His children.

Jesus described the Pharisees as a brood of vipers - sons of the Snake.  
We are born into the family of God...

The Spirit is in us as we saw in Romans 8

He - God yearns over the Spirit...jealously yearns....epi-potero - over the top desire.  
the Spirit belongs to Him still...it is His - God is the Steward of His own Spirit...  
And He has given Him to us.  
But He longs to see the Spirit have sway...

**Galatians 5:16** says **16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

The Spirit is the Opponent of Sin - they're in the ring together - and the Spirit in us is fighting the sin in us. It is battle - it is war.

### **God's Strong Desire - Is for the Pugilistic Defeat of Sin in the Life of the Believer**

But what does James say...Not only does God yearn to win - to fight in you...but He does something...besides us knowing and believing that God is jealous over us...and is willing to fight in us so that our sin may be beaten up and defeated and laying on the mat...

God Gives More Grace -

what does that mean accept "more" - more than being saved...which is good and done and finished...more than me realizing the hurt I am causing God when I quench and grieve Him...God Gives More Grace -

Why because....a humble sinner is someone that He cannot resist to love.

Who gets more grace - the humble sinner...who humbles himself.

Most of the time when you think of winning a Boxing match...you think of the worldly boxing that goes on - people strong in the flesh who are really just showing off.

God gives more grace to the humble....

David - is a perfect example...

The youngest...the most "least" of the brothers....the younger got the leftovers...

But David was humble and had a ferocious loyalty to God -

He was grieved over what God was grieved over...

how dare that uncircumcised Philistine take what belongs to God's people....

1 Samuel 17

**26** And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" **27** And the people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done to the man who kills him."

vs. 29 after being question by his brother...**David said, "was it not but a Word"?**

David's word were heard..."vs 31 1 Samuel 17 when the words that David spoke were heard"

David had been practicing the fight - the war - against threats to the flock...

The Lord will deliver me...from the hand of this Philistine...

David declared the truth - the Lord will deliver me...

David humbled himself under the mighty hand of God - why so that God would be exalted - His desires would be vindicated - His reputation upheld...He be given glory...

No double minded ness in this young David...

Yet we think we can fight with one arm tied behind our backs?

No we cannot!!!!!!

Care about His Word - His reputation - His Name -

and your heart will humbly say....God will deliver me - God can deliver me...I suppose that it is true that He yearns jealously over the Spirit that is living in me.

I better make a good fight!

But there's more - then at the very moment - you submit - you humble yourself...

God gives more grace...

At the very moment you see to purify yourself...by humbling and agreeing with God over the sin and the putrid nature of that thing that you brought into the rooms of your life...

At the very minute when you resist the devil he flees...like a beaten opponent....

The very minute when you turn your careless laughter into mourning over your sin...and

then weakness of your flesh...at that moment of humility...He will give more grace and exalt you...

vs. 10 humble yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you....\

why because you care now - about what He cares about...  
You are not hurting Him - grieving Him - quenching Him...

He works with you and not against you....

**conclusions:**

Interpretation: God's desire is that we desire what He desires and beat up sin...gain victories over sin and therefore be humbled and be grace receivers beyond salvation grace.

**Application:**

Question to end with...

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Answer: Using Scripture break the back of sin.

Jesus did it...the temptation...

"it is written"

"again it is written"

"be gone Satan For it is written"

Matthew 4:11 then the devil left Him - and behold the angels came and were ministering to Him" vs. 12 Jesus begins His ministry....

Ministry is where we left off in 2 Corinthians -

Maybe there is some weeping and crying over sin...that must needs happen.  
Maybe that is where you need to start.

Get busy - get in the ring - get your Word on - Get the Spirit of God on...get your armor on...and get in the fight - the victory has already been one.

We must put on the gloves - and break the back of sin...

1. first with matching our feelings/passion/anger over what bothers God.
2. then take action...weep over isn...humble yourself under His might hand...
3. be in the Word and walking by the Spirit...His grace will bring victory - no doubt about it.