

# The NT Equivalent to the “Big If”

## James 4: 1-7

**What is the New Testament equivalent to 2 Chronicles 7: 14-16? This, because the New Testament is now about the Cross and the goal of sharing the story of Jesus to every creature.**

### Warnings of Worldliness!

In Chapter 3: 15 we are reminded that the Christian battles the world, the flesh and the devil. In Ephesians 2: 1-3 we see the life of the unsaved man pictured. The unsaved person lives for the world and the flesh, and is controlled by the devil. When a man is saved, he receives the Holy Spirit within and has a new nature – but he will still battle these enemies. Therefore we have a tendency in the New Testament Church to suffer from the same issues that the Israelite Jews struggled with:

- 1. Flesh** (vs 1-3) The word “lust” does not necessarily mean sensual passion. It simply means desires. These desires are at work in our bodies even though we are believers in Jesus Christ. The flesh is human desires apart from God’s will.
- 2. The World** (vs 4-5) This is spiritual adultery, being married to Christ yet loving the world. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11: 2-3 Paul says, “For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

James 4: 4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship is the word is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

- 3. The Devil** (vs 6-7) When the Christian lives for the world and the flesh, he becomes proud; and this is where the devil goes to work, for pride is one of his best tools. God wants to give more grace – more than Satan can ever give!

### James gives them 7 steps to personal revival:

- Humble yourselves. (vs 6)
- Submit yourselves therefore before God.
- Resist the Devil and he will flee from you – yourself.
- Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you – yourself
- Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts – yourself
- Be afflicted and mourn, and weep – yourself
- Humble yourselves ***in the sight of the Lord*** and He shall lift you up

In Isaiah 6, as Isaiah comes to realize the greatness of God, He realizes the sinfulness of man and he began to repent and cry for God's help.

This is an intentional humbling/ intentional prayer/ intentional submission/ intentional resisting/ intentional drawing, cleansing mourning and weeping, ***IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD.***

Here in James' day, as the New Testament Christians were falling into worldliness, pride and love with this world, James knew that they could not serve God in this state. God simply could not bless the Christian who was in love with the world.

What compels God to come and save us???

Vs 10 – **And He (the Lord) shall lift you up!**