

JUST DO IT // (Wk 6)

Welcome back to Faith Students!!! The best night of the week! I am so glad to see each of you here tonight. We have been praying that the Lord moves in your lives and changes it FOREVER! Tonight, as you grab your Bibles from under your seats, why don't you take a second and pray to ask God to reveal Himself to you tonight. We are studying a passage of scripture that is all about *Drawing Near to God*, so let's ask him to open our ears to hear and hearts to receive whatever it is He wants to speak to you tonight.

SCRIPTURE //

James 4:1-12

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? **2** You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. **3** And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. **4** You adulterers!^[a] Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. **5** Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him.^[b] **6** And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."^[c] **7** So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. **9** Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. **11** Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters.^[d] If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. **12** God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?

- There's a lot to unpack here. We see a lot discussed here - strife, arguments, wrong motives, humility, sorrow, judgement, etc.

- I ask that you just remain in this posture to be ready to hear, and not immediately close off or check out because it is challenging and direct

TITLE //

- The title of this message is **FULLY SURRENDERED** and today we are going to take a look into what it means to draw near to Jesus.

ILLUSTRATION //

- How many of you have gotten in an argument with one of your siblings or your best friend?
 - Oftentimes you have selfish desires in an argument
 - When you're younger, you care about being RIGHT
 - You want your (maybe) younger sibling to submit to you and agree with your side of the argument

TRANSITION //

- Maybe you are also finding yourself quick to argue with the Lord. Not only your siblings, friends or the world, but also with the Lord. But we aren't called to argue and be RIGHT! We are called to live a life submitted to the Lord. Maybe you are finding yourself in conflict between your flesh and spirit. You know what the Lord has spoken to you, but your flesh is battling to win in your life. This is when we need to submit to His will for us.

MAIN POINT //

- **True submissions starts with a desire to Draw Near to God.**

SUBMIT TO GOD // v.7

- What does that mean?
- What is submission?
 - It is a heart posture
 - Its remaining humble before the Lord
 - Obeying His will and commands
 - "accept or yield to a superior force or to the authority or will of another person"
 - Oxford Dictionary
- Submit your will to God's will
- Your desires exchanged for His

- Not only because you have the Holy fear and reverence for the Lord, but because you love Him! Out of your love flows obedience, so does your submission.
- **John 14:15** - "If you love me, obey my commandments.
- **Job 21:22** - "Submit to God, and you will have peace; then things will go well for you.
- What does this mean for us practically?
 - We need to give up our selfish desires
 - Ask the Lord daily, "what is Your will? Your will be done."
 - Ref. **Matthew 6:9-13**
 - Pray this daily
- How do you know what His will is? You spend time in His word. You look to Scripture to see what He has to say about how we should live.
- You also do this through resisting the Devil!
- Which brings us to point 2...

RESIST THE DEVIL (WORLD) // v.7

- Steer clear of the worldly desires
- It is easy to get caught up in the things of this world if you aren't fully submitted to the Lord, but it is also a part of your flesh to sneak up on you and strive for control.
- Don't let the enemy tempt you with your flesh and selfish ambition
- Let the Lord be the first desire of your heart
- **Matthew 6:24** - "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other.
- So let the Lord be the one you love. Let Him be your guide in everything. Resist the things that the enemy distracts you with.
- What does this look like practically?
 - It looks like spending time in His word. When you notice temptation, ask the Lord to meet you there. Speak scripture over it. That is what Jesus did, that is how he literally resisted the Devil's temptation.
 - Read **Matthew 4!!**
 - Jesus spoke TRUTH over lies. He resisted the Devil
 - This might also mean that for you, you stop listening to secular music, or limit the voices that you allow to speak into your life. Limit the secular TV shows you watch or rated R movies. Protect your mind and guard your heart.
 - It is a real thing that we have to do. The Word tells us "**For we[a] are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the**

unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. - Ephesians 6:12

- So fight with HIS WORD, not your own strength, but His.

***** THIS IS A GOOD SPOT FOR SMALL GROUPS (BEFORE ALTARS) *****

How do you live a life fully submitted to God and resisting of the Devil? You...

DRAW NEAR TO GOD // v.8

- This is your heart posture
- Cleanse your hands
 - Through faith and repentance of your sins
- Purify your hearts
 - Seek the things of Him
 - Seek His voice
- Humble yourself before the Lord
 - Exalt Him, lift up His name
 - Worship Him, sing songs that lift up His name, not yours
- Ask the Lord to create in you a desire for more of Him
- The beautiful thing is that He desires this as well. He desires ALL of you. He wants to be near to you, he wants you to live a life FULLY SURRENDERED to Him.
- As Psalm 145:18 says, "The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth."
- I want you guys to grasp this - HE DESIRES TO BE NEAR TO YOU, all you have to do is call on Him
- So we are going to do that right now, as we prepare to go into a time at the altar, I want you to go ahead and start preparing your heart
- Ask the Lord, "what do you want to speak to me?"
 - He will reveal it to you
- If you want to live a life fully surrendered to the Lord, come to the front and pursue Him now, draw near to Him now
- Our leaders will be around to pray for you if you need prayer, but for the first 5 or so minutes, let's respond to what we've read tonight and spend time in His presence, just you and Jesus.

Response:

- Salvation
- Draw near to Him

- Call to action: what is the Lord asking of you?
 - Submit to Him
 - Repent of Sin
 - Humble yourself before God
 - FULLY SURRENDER

***** OR THIS IS A GOOD SPOT FOR SMALL GROUPS (AFTER ALTARS) *****