

James 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Analysis

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. He gives more grace (meizona charin, μείζονα χάριν). Therefore: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (Proverbs 3:34). Humility opens the floodgates of sanctifying grace.

Reformed believers rejoice that God's grace not only saves but supplies strength for repentance. Pride blocks that supply; humility receives it.

Historical Context

Persecuted saints might strive for status or self-defense. James assures them that God sides with the humble, a truth Peter later echoes (1 Peter 5:5).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What expressions of pride hinder grace in your life?
2. How can you embrace humility this week?
3. Where have you seen God give 'more grace' when you humbled yourself?

Interlinear Text

μείζονα	δὲ	δίδωσιν	χάριν	διὸ	λέγει	Ὁ	θεὸς
G3173	But	giveth	grace	Wherefore	he saith	G3588	God
G1161	G1161	G1325	G5485	G1352	G3004	G2316	
ὑπερηφάνοις	ἀντιτάσσεται	ταπεινοῖς	δὲ	δίδωσιν	χάριν		
the proud	resisteth	unto the humble	But	giveth	grace		
G5244	G498	G5011	G1161	G1325	G5485		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 23:12 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Proverbs 3:34 (Grace): Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

1 Peter 5:5 (Grace): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Psalms 138:6 (Parallel theme): Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

Proverbs 18:12 (Parallel theme): Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 29:23 (Parallel theme): A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Proverbs 22:4 (Parallel theme): By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.

Isaiah 2:17 (Parallel theme): And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Job 22:29 (Parallel theme): When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.

Luke 14:11 (Parallel theme): For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org