

December 11, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the LORD, and He will lift you up.

The word for *humble* is used 56 times in scripture. In this passage, the Greek translation is **tapeinothete** which means *to make low, to empty, to bow down or to put yourself last*. What an amazing word this is. In **Phil. 2:8** it states this about Jesus: ***And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!***

The cross was and is a sign of death. Many people wear a cross as an adornment. I've seen rock stars singing about drugs and sex wearing a cross around their neck or on their earlobe. The cross is not a "cool" symbol, but one of death to self, complete submission. James is stating in today's verse that we are to die to our life so that Jesus can be lifted up instead of us.

To humble oneself, we must empty ourselves of "self" and allow Christ to fill us with His Holy Spirit. Paul makes this very clear in **Gal. 2:20**, ***I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.***

In a self-seeking world, the LORD is calling us to live differently; to give instead of receiving; to love instead of hate; to build up instead of tear down; to serve instead of being served. These are fruits that come from the tree of life. They will bring others into the realization of true life instead of just existence. Let's let the world see people who are willing to do what Jesus said in **Luke 9:23**, ***Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.***

Dear LORD, we need to humble ourselves before You. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on You and to die daily to our selfish desires so that we can exalt You as You deserve. Help us to live by faith. In Jesus Name, Amen