

“You Might Not Finish This Chapter”
CRAZY LOVE¹ – Chapter 2
JAMES 4:13-14

HUMILITY IS THE ARMOR AGAINST WORLDLINESS

1. Becoming **free** from the grip of society and its values requires a conscious, **willing** submission to God’s **authority** that extends over the entire universe (James 4:7).
2. A truly **humble**, submitted Christian will give his allegiance to God, obey His commands, and follow His leadership (Matt. 10:38-39).
3. A humble Christian knows it is crazy to think that today is a **normal** day with which he can do **whatever** he wishes without God’s input (James 4:14).

KEY THOUGHT: Submissive humility provides the Christian with the **perspective** to **invest** his life in winning souls and building the kingdom of God (James 4:7-8, 13-14).

I. TRUSTING GOD PROTECTS OUR HUMILITY (JAMES 4:13-17).

- A. **Rejoice** regardless of **circumstances** (Phil. 4:4-7).
 1. The source of our joy is not from **life’s** circumstances, but rather the unassailable, unchanging **relationships** we have with Almighty God (Phil. 3:1; 4:4).
 2. Worry and anxiety are diminished when we place our complete **trust** in the **Lord** (Phil. 4:6).
- B. The **peace** of God is **promised** (Phil. 4:7).
 1. A **thankful** attitude comes from humbly **trusting** the Lord and His provision (Rom.8:28).
 2. An inner **calm** and sense of tranquility that surpasses all human understanding will **guard** us against anxiety and fear (Phil. 4:7; John 16:33).

KEY THOUGHT: The humility that comes from surrendering my life to the Holy Spirit’s leadership protects me from thinking my **life** is **all** about **me** (Rev. 4:11).

KEY THOUGHT: The point of my life is to point **others** to Jesus **every day** (Phil. 1:21).

¹ Crazy Love, by Francis Chan; Publisher: David C. Cook, © 2008

II. THANKING GOD THAT WE ARE WEAK (2 COR. 12:10)

- A. Praise God **He** is in **control** (James 4:13-14).
1. We can be grateful that the **weaknesses** in our lives help us **test** our walk with the Lord (1 Cor. 10:13; Phil. 4:8).
 2. Being submitted to the leadership of the Holy Spirit allows us to **focus** on making an **impact** in the world for Jesus (Matt. 10:32-33).
- B. The ultimate **reality** of this life is you will **stand** before Jesus someday (Matt. 10:32; 25:21, 23).
1. Some could be entering their **last year** or two of living and making an investment in God's kingdom (Eccl. 7:2).
 2. Christians will each be measured by their **contribution** to the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 3:13-15).

KEY THOUGHT: Investing your life in the souls of others is crucial to **truly living** as the Lord intended believers to do (Phil. 1:21).

KEY THOUGHT: Anyone's life could end **tomorrow**. Are you **satisfied** with the contribution you have made to the kingdom of God? (Phil. 3:12-14)

IT IS ALL ABOUT GOD

1. I am willing to join the ministry to children in some manner:
 - Anywhere** needed
 - Children's **Sunday School**
 - Children's **worship** team member
 - Community Ministry to **Families**
 - Daytime **VBS** (Vacation Bible School)
 - Exploring **Upward** Sports
2. I would be interested in helping with a Community **Softball** League this fall.

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

March 21, 2010

SUNDAY: **Humility is our armor against worldliness** (James 4:7-8)! The grip of society and its values are much stronger on us than we want to believe. We see many luxuries as necessities, maybe even as entitlements. For a Christian to practice biblical thinking and living, it demands that the world not have this tight of a grip on his heart. Being free from the world's pressures requires a conscious, willing submission to God's authority over His universe (James 4:7). Submission to the Lord can produce a overwhelming humility which gives a Christian the desire to give his allegiance to God, to obey His commands, and to follow His leadership (Matt. 10:38-39). Every day becomes a great opportunity to invest his life toward winning souls and building God's kingdom (James 4:7-8, 13-14). Pray for the strength of character to submit to the Lord each day and live the life He lays out for you today. ***May this simple, yet powerful, decision create an avenue for your life to make a significant contribution to the kingdom of God!***

MONDAY: **My joy is because of the Lord** (Phil. 4:4-7)! The Bible clearly states that the source of my joy as a Christian is not my current life circumstances (Phil. 3:1; 4:4). My joy is completely dependent upon the unassailable, unchanging relationship I have with my Almighty God through Jesus Christ! Trusting completely in God's provision is really the only way to maintain an attitude of humble submission to God's leadership. It is that humility that provides the platform for genuine joy to permeate my life despite my circumstances (Phil. 4:4-7). Worry and anxiety are diminished, possibly extinguished, when one's trust is completely placed in the Lord (Phil. 4:6). Submitting to the leadership of the Lord and the Holy Spirit demands a form of vigilance. Yet, this surrender of authority in your life frees you from so many decisions that weigh others down. Pray for a quiet, submissive demeanor to come into your life as you truly surrender to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. ***May the freedom you feel give you greater energy to serve the Lord by serving others!***

TUESDAY: **The peace of God really is available** (Phil. 4:7)! The Christian that humbly trusts in the Lord will develop a thankful attitude because God does know what is best for His children (Rom. 8:28). An inner calm and a sense of tranquility that surpasses all human understanding will guard him against anxiety and fear (Phil. 4:7; John 16:33). This peace is comprehensive to a Christian's entire inner being. This union with Christ guards the believer's inner being from the attacks of fear, distress, doubt and so much more. Pray for the strength of the spirit to surrender yourself to the leadership and authority of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to protect you against the attacks that tempt you not to completely trust the Lord. ***May the peace of God cause you to draw even closer to the Lord (Phil. 4:8)!***

WEDNESDAY: **My life is to point others to Jesus every day** (Phil. 1:21)! My God is a great God (Rev. 4:11)! The humility that comes from surrendering my life completely to the Holy Spirit's leadership protects me from selfish thinking. Recognizing how great my God is helps prevent me from thinking my life is all about me. Rather, I see it as my opportunity to serve Him with every breath I draw. Therefore, my life has purpose and meaning. The point of my life is to point everyone I encounter to Jesus (Phil. 1:21). Pray for your faith to expand so you can

completely trust God. Ask the Lord to strengthen your trust in His leadership to help you remain humbly surrendered to the Holy Spirit's leadership. ***May the Lord bless you abundantly to help your faith in His leadership grow in your life!***

THURSDAY: ***Thankfully, God is in control (James 4:13-14)!*** Our weaknesses continue to reveal our desperate need for the Lord (2 Cor. 12:10). Submission to the Holy Spirit brings great peace and balance into the life of the Christian. However, it is the unexpected events and wrinkles that truly test our walk with the Lord (1 Cor. 10:13). Gratefully, it is the weaknesses of our lives that help us stay close to God. These events cause us to intentionally submit to the Lord and meditate on everything that is holy (Phil 4:8). Being submitted to the leadership of the Holy Spirit allows the Christian to focus on making an impact in the world for Jesus (Matt. 10:32-33). Praise the Lord that He is in control. Commit again to His leadership in your life and your submission daily to the Holy Spirit. ***May the realization that God is in control provide you the strength to flee sin when it knocks at the door of your life!***

FRIDAY: ***You will stand before Jesus someday (Matt. 10:32; 25:21, 23)!*** The ultimate reality of this life is that everyone will stand before Jesus someday. When you die, the first stop is the judgment of the saved and unsaved (Matt. 10:32-33). Those that are saved will stand before Jesus to receive the reward hinted at in the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:21, 23). Honestly, this could be the last year of your life. How should that year be spent (Eccl. 7:2)? There is still time to make a significant contribution to the kingdom of God. The Bible clearly says that every Christian will be evaluated based upon his contribution to the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 3:13-15). Our church is making plans to focus on ministries to children that could make a significant impact in our community. Where can you contribute to the overall effort? Ask the Lord for clear direction how you can make a contribution to the work of our church in the kingdom of God. Continue to be surrendered to the Holy Spirit's leadership and walk in humility before the Lord. ***May your decision to serve alongside others bring tremendous fruit in your spiritual life!***

SATURDAY: ***My short life should be invested in something that is eternal (Phil. 3:12-14)!*** Life on this planet is really rather short. The opportunity to make a serious contribution to the kingdom of God could be more limited than we think. Investing your life in the souls of others is crucial to truly living as the Lord intended believers to do (Phil. 1:21). Anyone's life could end tomorrow. Will you make the decision to stop postponing your plans to serve and jump in right now? Make the decision to press forward and serve the Lord with every breath if you can (Phil. 3:12-14)! Pray for the strength to remain committed to the Lord's plan over your own. Seek the courage to be fully submitted to the Holy Spirit and to live with a humble heart for the Lord. Remember, it is all about Him and not about you! ***May this sermon and study form a firm foundation that will lead to a revolution in your personal spiritual life and your life of ministry!***