

THE SECRET OF FAILURE

TEXT: James 4:1-17; key verse: vs. 8--"Cleanse your hands ye sinners.."

*the Great Revivals of history*

INTRODUCTION: <sup>1</sup>In the past four years 15,000,000 people have been converted to Mohammedanism in Africa. That is just one indication of the fact that we desperately need a genuine revival. There is no reason why we cannot experience such an outpouring of God's Spirit that the entire community could be won for Christ. Consider the great power of God which is accessible to the Church. But we are failing miserably. Why? What is the secret of our Failure? Jeremiah said it, "Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you." (Jer. 5:25)

*1 Peter 4:17*

*the Church can only be deflated from within -*

<sup>2</sup>Judgment must always come before revival. The fiery searchlight of the Holy Spirit lays everything bare and naked before Him. All sin must be judged, cleansed and put away before revival fires will burn and blessings from God come down. II Chron. 7:13,14 - "If of judgment - If of revival."

<sup>3</sup>God dealt an uncompromising blow against sin at Calvary. If He dealt so drastically with sin when it was laid on the pure, sinless Son of God, will He be more lenient with sin in the impure lives of His fallen creatures?

*Like a woman in travail Matt 5:19 - "born" most obvious*

<sup>4</sup>The pathway to revival is not easy. James tells us what we must do in order to overcome our failure. "Cleanse your hands." The hands here obviously refer to the overt acts of sins committed. Dirty hands need to be washed. We cannot handle the work and word of God with dirty hands. James lists six sins from which we must be cleansed.

*Conflict*

I. THE SIN OF STRIVING vs. 1-3

*all sort of wickedness (Eph 4:22) every man's hand which you touch is against the fellow*

The expression of the spiritual and moral disease is not as important as the disease itself. The wars and fightings, and brawlings, the vain strife for things unattainable, the death-dealing blows against fellow Christians, the silence of God in relation to their prayers; these all are but the open external running sores which aggravate the body, distress the mind, and render its putrefaction a reproach before the world. Isa. 1:5,6

*Worshiping Spirit*

What a picture of so many modern Christians! Brawlings in the home, in the church business meetings, strife for positions, prominence, and pre-eminence, even in the body of Christ; greediness for better and more material comforts and luxuries; murderous blows by subtle insinuations or questionable accusations against the reputations or characters of fellow Christians; frenzied but futile prayers with fasting and howling....All this, and little wonder at the dead silence of an insulted and oft offended just God.

The greatest enemy to the Church is strife, dissension, and internal splits which rob the harmony and peace of the Church. This is a grave sin which must be confessed and forsook before God's blessings can come upon His people.

Paul's letters abound with exhortations to separation

(2) We serve a Two-headed man: 1- Sunday desecration, 2- Compromising Sensuality - Immorality

II. THE SIN OF SPIRITUAL FORNICATION. vs. 4

1. The prophet Hosea teaches us that God looks upon in a Christian as adultery. Just as an unfaithful wife to her husband, so an unfaithful Christian to God. *the curse of the Church*  
2. The line of demarcation between the world and the church has been so nearly erased in our day that few are longer able to find the boundary. The hour has arrived for a new delimitation between the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God.

Billy Graham 75% of cars are places of adultery in Drive-in theaters.

(1) There is an all out Satanic attack against the moral standard of the world and the church. (a) Movies, television, magazines, etc. (b) Compromising preachers and parents. *(Park-Roll)*

(2) Today Christians need to take a stand for their convictions. *a spiritual thermometer. Are you friendly to the world?*

God is a jealous God and will not share His glory with another. The Bible says that worldliness is spiritual adultery! *sell or ship - If ocean gets into ship, it sinks & world gets into Christians' life. that life is headed for wreckage. (Relation of Christian to world)*

woman with legs face on legs with psycho. "I've come to see you about my brother."

III. THE SIN OF SINFUL PRIDE vs. 6 - *causes strife, etc.*

Pride is the keystone sin of the spiritual nature. Remove it and the whole structure constructed against God will collapse. Mainatin it and God is barred from the life. Pride is that which exalts self and leaves no room for God.

*Keeps us from confessing our sins.*  
III. Elder brother to the prodigal son.

Pride does two things: (1) It gives a distorted view of everyone else; (2) It blinds to one's self.

*Pride keeps us from confessing our sins.*

In his absence, Am 30 Characteristic of lost program

THE SIN OF SLANDER ..vs. 11 *follows on the heels of Continues*

There is no more deadly sin among Christians than the sin of evil speaking. It invariable deals a double death blow: (1) to the spirit of the Speaker; (2) It cuts down in cold blood the one spoken about. (Psa. 51:10)

*she asked for questions - plucked feathers & threw feathers away - just as feathers couldn't be retrieved, neither can gossip!*

THE SIN OF PRESUMPTION vv. 13-15

This is a common sin. going ahead with our business, not considering the will of God. For many Christians God is little more than a trouble-shooter. They only call on Him when they get into trouble. *My father-in-law a trouble shooter of phone co.*

Are you in the center of God's will? James 2:22 Con. on back

VI. THE SIN OF OMISSION vs. 17 *Parable of the talents. Keeping vows to God*

Christ had much to say about this sin. Matt. 25:31-45