

A quick analysis of this situation may be summed up by such terms as living in the cosmic systems and failures to apply doctrines James has taught related to the circumstances of life.

The reasons for these failures include facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness which override recall of any doctrine they may have learned, consistent application of human viewpoint, establishment viewpoint, and most critically divine viewpoint.

James 4:7–10 expose these failures. James has taught the doctrines. His parishioners have by and large refused to apply what they have heard.

To conclude our study of reversionism, we will go back and review these four verses which conclude the first paragraph of James: Chapter Four.

James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (NASB)

This short verse, containing two short sentences, sums up your battleplan while living in the hostile environment of *cosmos diabolicus*. Two imperative moods are contained within it: (1) “submit and (2) “resist.” These two verbs summarize the strategy and tactics the believer must deploy to survive in the hostile environment of the devil’s world.

Verse seven begins with the aorist active imperative of **ὑποτάσσω** (*hupotássō*): “to subjugate, place in submission; to cause to be in a submissive relationship, to subordinate.”

In this context, Scripture, through the agency of James, is commanding the believer to submit to God. The Bible is the authority to which the believer is to respond in fulfilment of the verses’ two imperative moods:

James 4:7 Subordinate [aorist middle imperative of **ὑποτάσσω** (*hupotássō*)] **yourself to God’s divine authority.**
Stand fast [aorist active imperative of **ἀνθίστημι** (*anthístēmi*)] **in opposition to the devil—*diábolos*—and he will flee, avoid, shun, escape from all of y’all. (EXT)**

This short verse presents a strategy for doing battle in the Invisible War. The battle to be waged is not against flesh and blood but against the invisible spiritual forces that can only be confronted with a high inventory of divine truth which Paul brilliantly describes in Ephesians 6:12–17.

The believer who is positive to what the Bible has to say willingly responds to its imperative moods. This is referred to as positive volition toward an authority that is considered by the believer as authentic, superior, and trustworthy.

When a person recognizes the Bible as the source of absolute truth, then he willingly submits to its authority without hesitance and with appreciation. Scripture is qualified to have command authority over the believer.

God the Father is the Commander-in-Chief. The Holy Spirit is the member of the Trinity Who sequentially communicated the Word of God to 40-plus men who served as His amanuenses.

Once the canon was completed, c. A.D. 95, the Holy Spirit had already begun the process of providing men with two gifts of communication: (1) evangelist and (2) pastor-teacher. (Ephesians 4:11b)

Their duties are to (1) present the gospel of salvation to heathen who, if positively responsive, will place their personal faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. This is to be followed by (2) growing in grace in a local church under the teaching authority of a pastor-teacher.

At this point is when the commandment in verse 7 becomes operational: “Subordinate yourself to God.” What happens next is the process of growing in grace by means of concentration, inculcation, retention, facilitation, and application of the doctrine you know to life and circumstances.

The believer is now engaged in the process of being a good soldier for God by acquiring the artillery of thought through Bible study. This is the system by which we learn how to submit to the immutable Word of God.

However, this imperative mood will be challenged if the believer does not submit to the next aorist active imperative mood, the verb, **ἀνθίστημι** (*anthístēmi*): “to stand against, resist; be in opposition to, set oneself against, oppose.” Who is to be resisted is identified next with the noun, **διάβολος** (*diábolos*): “the devil.”

There are two imperative moods in James 4:7 while James 4:8 provides three more:

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleans your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (NASB)

1. “Draw near” is the aorist active imperative of **ἐγγίζω** (*engízō*): “to come near; to resume worship of God with positive volition toward spiritual growth.”
2. In this context, “drawing near” is the procedure the reversionistic believer must initiate. He must advance through the stages of the edification complex, which begins with the resumption of spiritual growth, with the objective of having invisible historical impact.