



# Daily Reflections

**May 22, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **James 4: 1-10**

Beloved:

Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from?

Is it not from your passions that make war within your members?

You covet but do not possess.

You kill and envy but you cannot obtain;  
you fight and wage war.

You do not possess because you do not ask.

You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly,  
to spend it on your passions.

Adulterers!

Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God?

Therefore, whoever wants to be a lover of the world  
makes himself an enemy of God.

Or do you suppose that the Scripture speaks without meaning when it says,

The spirit that he has made to dwell in us tends toward jealousy?

But he bestows a greater grace; therefore, it says:

God resists the proud,  
but gives grace to the humble.

So submit yourselves to God.

Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners,  
and purify your hearts, you of two minds.

Begin to lament, to mourn, to weep.  
Let your laughter be turned into mourning  
and your joy into dejection.  
Humble yourselves before the Lord  
and he will exalt you.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

So many of the great Saints throughout history taught that pride was the first and greatest sin, the sin that opened the gate to the other sins. And what is pride? Pride is being so full of oneself that there is no room for God. Pride is the polar opposite of humility. James admonishes members of the Church for allowing the sin of pride to fester to the point of causing sinful divisions. His remedy? "Submit yourselves to God" because He "Gives Grace to the humble." James assures them that if they "Resist the Devil, He will flee from you."

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## **Food for your Journey**

As a journalist, screenwriter and best-selling novelist, Dan Wakefield is celebrated for capturing the essence of the human spirit. Wakefield's most lasting impact, however, may be contained in his spiritual biography, *Returning: A Spiritual Journey* (New York: Doubleday, 1988), in which he charts his turning again to the true path beginning one Christmas Eve. This is how his autobiography begins:

"One balmy spring morning in Hollywood, a month or so before my 48th birthday, I woke up screaming. I got out of bed, went into the next room, sat down on a couch and screamed again ... It was a response to the reality that another morning had broken in a life I could only deal with sedated by wine, loud noise, moving images and wired to electronic games that further distracted my fragmented attention from a growing sense of blank, nameless pain in the pit of my very being, my most essential self. ... The day I woke up screaming, I grabbed from among my books an old Bible I hadn't opened for nearly a quarter of a century. With a desperate instinct I turned to the 23rd Psalm and read it over, several times...." (3)

That's wisdom.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, With Your wonderful and liberating Grace, shrink the size of my exaggerated ego and make me humble before You and others. May I resist the sin of pride at every turn and seek Your dominion over my life. Amen