

Dear God...

...I QUIT!

Signed

**New Years
Resignation**
pt 2

James 4:6-10

The
Illusion
of

Control



The Need For Control

Illusion

There is An Attack On the Church Today

- It Sneaks in the Back Door
- It Pretends It Is the Voice Of Reason

One of the Biggest Addictions In the Church World Today Is:

- The Addiction to Control
 - Bred by Fear -*protect*
 - Led by Pride -*promote*

Both of these Components are

- Dangerous
- Deceptive

PRIDE

Romans 12:3

FEAR

Proverbs 29:25

**Promoting
Self**



**Protecting
Self**

PRIDE

Romans 12:3

FEAR

Proverbs 29:25

**Promoting
Self**



**Protecting
Self**

**God Never Wants His Children...
...to be Consumed By
...this Terrible Duo (Pride/ Fear)
...Or It's By-Product (Control)**

SOURCE: Blanchard, K., & Hodges, P. (2005). Lead like Jesus: Lessons for everyone from the greatest leadership role model of all time. Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson.



1: Take a Knee



Humble yourself before the Lord.

- **Relinquish control of your life to God.**
- **Literally, rank yourself under Him.**
- **Let God to be your Captain, and obey Him.**

**We can fight the Lord, or we can
surrender everything to his control**

1: Take a Knee

“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Submit yourselves therefore to God” -6-7a

- **Humility doesn't come naturally to most of us.**

It's the virtue which, if you think you have it, you probably don't.

D. L. Moody - *“Lord, make me humble, but don't let me know it.”*

We can fight the Lord, or we can Surrender everything to His Control.

When We Fight, We Lose.

When We Surrender In Faith, We Win.



FIGHT!

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies..."

Ephesians 6:12

2: Fight Back

Resist the devil and he will flee from you. -4:7

- You don't have to let Satan ruin your life anymore.
- Just submit to God and resist the devil.

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies..."

Ephesians 6:12

Resist

2: Fight Back

“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” -7b

This is both a Command and a Promise.

We have no power in ourselves against the devil...

...but he has no power to use against us when we fight with God's power.

- **By ourselves, we can't win; with God's help, we can't lose.**

The word “resist” is a military term. It means you stand and fight.

- **You Never Run Away**

Satan isn't equal to God, but he's a lot smarter than you or me.

Draw Near to God
and He will draw near to you.



3: Draw Near

Draw Near to God

and He will draw near to you.

Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.-4-8

- **Stop running away from God.**
- **Instead, turn around and take just one step towards Him;
...for when you do
...He will take a thousand steps towards you.**

**“If God feels far away from you...
...who moved?”**

3: Draw Near

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” -8a

The question is not, how near is God to us, but rather how near are we to him?

Drawing near to God starts in the heart (attitude)...

...Moves through the hand (actions)

You do not need to be an advanced Christian or a super-saint or a deep Bible student.

The newest saint/ the weakest believer may know God’s presence.



4: Clean Up



Cleanse your hands, you sinners. 4:8

- **Purify your hearts, you double-minded.**
- **Wash your hands and your hearts.**
- **Clean up your Act and your Attitude.**

Repent

4: Clean Up

“Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded” -8b

- **We Must Cleanse Our Hands = Actions**
- **We Must Purify Our Hearts = Attitudes**

This Means We Stop Making Excuses For...

- **Bad Attitudes**
- **Unkindness**
- **Bitterness**
- **Critical Spirit**
- **Our Need To Be In Control**

Bring It

5: Get Serious

“Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom” – 9

- **Be wretched—Who wants to be wretched?**
- **Mourn—Don’t worry, be happy.**
- **Weep—That’s a real downer.**

Step Back/ Ask Ourselves...

...Are We Taking His Work Seriously?

HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE

THE LORD

AND HE WILL LIFT YOU UP



#6 Stay Low

S BEFORE

THE LORD

“Humble yourself before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”

- **Relinquish control of your life to the Lord.**
- **Stop trying to get YOUR way, and let God have HIS way**
- **It won't diminish you. On the contrary, it elevates you.**

Martin Luther put it this way:

“God creates out of nothing. Therefore, until a man is nothing, God can make nothing out of him”

- **In the Kingdom of God, the way up is down.**
- **If you humble yourself, the Lord will raise you up**

Good morning!

This is God.

**I will be handling all of your
problems today.**

**I will not need your help,
so have a miraculous day.**

Dear God...

...I QUIT!

Signed
