What Does It Mean That Your Laughter Should Turn Into Mourning? (James 4:9)

Question: The Bible says in James 4:9 that our laughter should turn into mourning. Does this mean God doesn’t want us to be happy? What does this verse really mean?

Answer:

> *James 4:9 – “Grieve, mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy into gloom.”*

The laughter James is talking about is not the kind of laughter that comes from good things—like celebrating when someone repents or rejoices in God’s blessings. That is not what this verse is referring to.

The laughter in question is the laughter that comes from sin or wrongdoing. For example:

- Laughing after gaining wealth through injustice
- Laughing after hurting someone
- Laughing after stealing, taking bribes, or committing other evil acts

This is the kind of laughter that should be replaced by mourning.

What does this mean for us?

When a person recognizes their sin, they should no longer take joy in the evil they've done. Instead, they should grieve, repent, and feel genuine sorrow for their wrongdoing. For example, someone who once took pleasure in dishonest wealth should stop rejoicing when they come to Jesus and instead mourn for their

past actions and turn away from sin.

Why is mourning and repentance important?

Because Jesus warned:

> *Luke 6:25 – "... Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep."*

It is far better to mourn over sin and wrongdoing now so that we may receive God's mercy and salvation, than to enjoy evil today and face judgment later.

So, we must ask ourselves:

- What are we enjoying today?

- Is it luxury or pleasure from sin?

- Are we finding joy in stolen wealth, immorality, or the misfortune of others?

Remember, God’s word is always true: “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn.”

Repent today, wash away your sins, and believe in Jesus Christ. Be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the proper teaching (Acts 2:38).

> *James 4:7-10 –*
> *“7 Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
> *8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*
> *9 Grieve, mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy into gloom.*
> *10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”*

Maranatha.

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