



3. What was Nebuchadnezzar's sin? Explain why you think God was so incensed by this.

THE BIBLICAL SOLUTION

 **Recognize that God is against pride and unbelief, and is a restoring God.**

4. a. See Daniel 4:27 in question 2 above. What does this tell us about how God expects us to live?

The Bible Says ...



Daniel 4:34a, 36-37 *At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.*

³⁶*At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before.* ³⁷*Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.*

5. How did the mighty King Nebuchadnezzar finally redeem himself?

The Bible Says ...




James 4:6b-8b, 10 *That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you.*

¹⁰*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

6. What does God tell us to do to gain his favor?

APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE!!!

 **Turn from pride and unbelief, and turn to God to be restored from anything distancing you from Him.**

7. If someone asked you to tell them about yourself and you wanted to impress them, what would you say? Write that here, or in your journal.

8. Now, imagine that person has just revealed that he is your Heavenly Father or a Christian leader you respect. What would you say? What would do you wish you had said differently?



Summing It Up

Our life-change goal for this week is to grow deeper in our relationship with God.

This week we learned:

- 📖 that pride and unbelief can separate us from God.
- 📖 to recognize that God is against pride and unbelief, and is a restoring God.
- 📖 to turn from pride and unbelief, and turn to God to be restored from anything distancing you from Him.

What will you personally commit to do to accomplish this?

Going Deeper to Grow

If this week's topic has challenged you to grow in this vital area, read:

- *Daniel - The Man God Highly Esteemed* - by Stuart Briscoe

Study Guide Writers Needed

Want Ad:

If you or someone in your group is proficient in writing information for others to use, and have a strong theological background, would you consider joining the Small Group Study Guide Development team? The time commitment is about four hours, generally less than once per month – at home. Training and ongoing support is provided. If you are willing to consider this ministry and would like more information, please contact Bruce Koehler at: bruce@apluservices.com or 438-7100. Thanks!



Answers to Last Week's Study Questions

These answers are provided for those who are using the Study Guides, but are not in a Santa Cruz Bible Church Small Group. Items in shaded boxes provide additional insight on the topic.

THE PROBLEM

 **Some people that think they have had a real conversion experience lack evidence of that in their lives.**

1. **Luke 6:46** What is required of us in order to please the Lord?

Answer: We need to do the will of God; doing what he has called us to do in this world.

Insights: The replication of the title Lord in this passage (Lord, Lord) for Jesus can be an indication of zeal in the pronouncement. It is an appropriate recognition of who Jesus is, and that he is deserving of this recognition for what he has done for us. But Jesus is saying that acknowledging that he is God (even zealously) is not enough. We must act on this recognition by doing the will of God and living our lives in the way that he has told us to.

2. **James 2: 14-17** a. What do our actions have to do with our faith?

Answer: Our actions are the result of whatever is truly controlling our lives. If we are Christians, it should be our faith that is controlling our lives; and our actions should reflect this.

Insights: Today, the church is experiencing a movement from the “emerging church” phenomena. One of the forces behind the emerging church movement includes a reaction against Christians of professed strong faith and lack of practice. Much of this movement is biblically sound, but others have watered down biblical standards to appeal to the un-churched. It is important that we keep in perspective that our actions, as Christians can affect not only what others believe about us, but also what they believe about Christ and the Bible.

- b. What is the implication of this for us as Christians?

Answer: By examining our actions, we can get an accurate picture of how strong and important our faith really is in our lives.

Insights: Claiming to have faith in Jesus is not enough - genuine faith is evidenced by works. The analogy that James gives in this passage is poignant. A person living out their faith wouldn't walk by and tell them to have a nice day. No, you would stop and help them expressing your heartfelt concern for their situation by your actions. In the same way if your life is truly affected by faith in the Lord, it will be expressed in the things that you do in your life. But, if there is little



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outward evidence of change in a person's life after they have accepted the Lord, it may be because their profession of faith was not sincere and heartfelt, and there was no salvation.

 **We need to be more committed in our faith - and to live it.**

3. **Luke 6:47-49** Both men heard Jesus' words, so what is the difference between these men that causes them to have very different life outcomes?

Answer: One man acted on and put into practice what Jesus said while the other didn't.

Insights: Jesus makes it clear that it is not enough to hear his word. We must also make him Lord of our lives - as evidenced by doing what he says. Our lifestyle is a very important measure of how seriously we have embraced and believe in the Lord.

4. **2 Peter 1:5-9** How do we acquire the qualities that are mentioned?

Answer: We have to truly make Jesus the Lord of our life, then actively seek these qualities and make every effort to add them to our life.

Insights: The passage says that we should "make every effort". This is a call to action and suggests that if we don't actively seek to implement these things in our lives, they will not happen. This is true in our entire walk with the Lord, because he has called us to live lives that are different from the life that we would live if we just let it happen apart from him. God calls us to be active in shaping our life under the direction of the Holy Spirit that indwells us. This requires us to be committed to the Lord, to focus on discovering his will, and to actively conform our life to his will.

5. **Romans 12:1-2** What does it mean to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice?

Answer: It means that we need to go well beyond just being good. We need to lay our lives sacrificially at the Lord's feet, and consciously and actively sacrifice our own human (sinful) will, and actively take up the life that he has called us to.

Insights: While it is easy to call on the Lord, it is much harder to make a true heart-commitment to him and live it according to his will. This requires an act of sacrifice on our part – sacrifice of our worldly desires. God has called us to be transformed, and to give up our life as an act of worship. This can only happen if we are seriously committed to our faith and to living it.

