

Nevertheless, having sorted all the details of James 4:4–6, this passage’s expanded translation, now completed, enables us to carry on to the next verse—finally:

**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** (*hypotássō*): “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 command, “Submit to God.”

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 4:11)

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 (Ephesians 4:11).

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 of God by acquiring the artillery of thought through Bible study.

To illustrate, let's consider you are deployed to learn how to be a good soldier. Up in the heavenly Pentagon there is a five-star general who is the ultimate C-in-C. You cannot perceive him visually but you accept the fact He is there.

The person you can see is way down the table of organization called the pastor-teacher. The woods are full of men who have been assigned the gift at the moment of salvation.

Some of the strangest characters among Homo sapiens are pastors-teachers. Each, allegedly, has the gift of communication. Some are dynamic, some philosophical, some are erudite, some entertaining, and some are bombastic bloviators while others are just plain boring, a documented resource for curing insomnia.

Yet, for many, each one of these men accumulate followers who submit to his gift's authority. Yet, the key credential each must possess, is the spiritual gift of communication that accompanies the gift of pastor-teacher.

On the local level, if a believer is to grow in grace, the *visual* authorities must be submitted to and followed. **(1)** Scripture functions as a lieutenant platoon commander. **(2)** Next in line is the communicator, the lieutenant pastor-teacher. **(3)** Following him are privates who accumulate systematically the Word of God resident in their souls.

This process of transferring knowledge out from Scripture into the soul of the individual requires this system of authority. The first stage of the system has already been accomplished. God the Holy Spirit communicated content to forty-plus men who produced the Bible beginning with Moses and finishing with John.

In the Old Testament, those men included Moses, Joshua, Ezra, Nehemiah, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the Twelve.<sup>1</sup> In the New Testament, the men who wrote were Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter, and Jude and possibly the writer of Hebrews.

Out from this group and others emerged the communication gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors and teachers. The latter two categories—evangelists and pastors-teachers—are the only ones that remained as communicators once the canon of Scripture was completed by John in circa A.D. 95.

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<sup>1</sup> See R. B. Thieme, Jr., "Canonicity-Consciousness" in *Canonicity* (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1993) 30–31.



The conclusion of this process should result in a believer, having grown in grace, to facilitate doctrine in his soul. Scripture has been systematically transferred from the written Word to the spoken Word, and finally to the neuronal Word resulting in long-term memory for recall and application.

**Habituation. With repetition, a memory of the stimulus is formed and stored in long-term memory.**

**NOTE:** I have used the synonym, “**facilitate**,” in our studies of long-term memory. *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary* (11th ed.) defines “facilitate” as “the increasing of the ease or intensity of a response by repeated stimulation. The lowering of the threshold for reflex conduction along a particular neural pathway especially from repeated use of that pathway.” *The Oxford English Dictionary* (1971) defines “**habituation**” thusly: “Become habitual; formed into a habit; established by repetition or continuance.”

These words are used in our present study of neurology to define the process that is accomplished by the willingness of the believer to submit to several systems of authority: divine revelation by the Holy Spirit to 40+ human writers, the communication of the written word by Moses, priests, apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors-teachers, to those who believe their messages.

It is this system that must be recognized, accepted, adhered to, and then applied for the Word of God to have its maximum impact within the scrum of *cosmos diabolicus*.

And the idea that initiates this system to its conclusion is the aorist active imperative of **ὑποτάσσω (hypotássō)**: “to subjugate, place in submission; to cause to be in a submissive relationship, to subordinate.”

The working object of his submission is the proper noun, **Θεός (Theós)**: God. James 4:6 is concluded by quoting:

**Proverbs 3:34** “God is divinely deployed in order of battle against the arrogant, but gives grace to those who express reverence toward Him.” (EXT)

All the chaos surrounding the opening six verses of chapter 4 is either maintained or overcome by verse 7: “Submit to the immutable Word of God and resist the devil.”

The word “resist” is the aorist active imperative of 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.”

