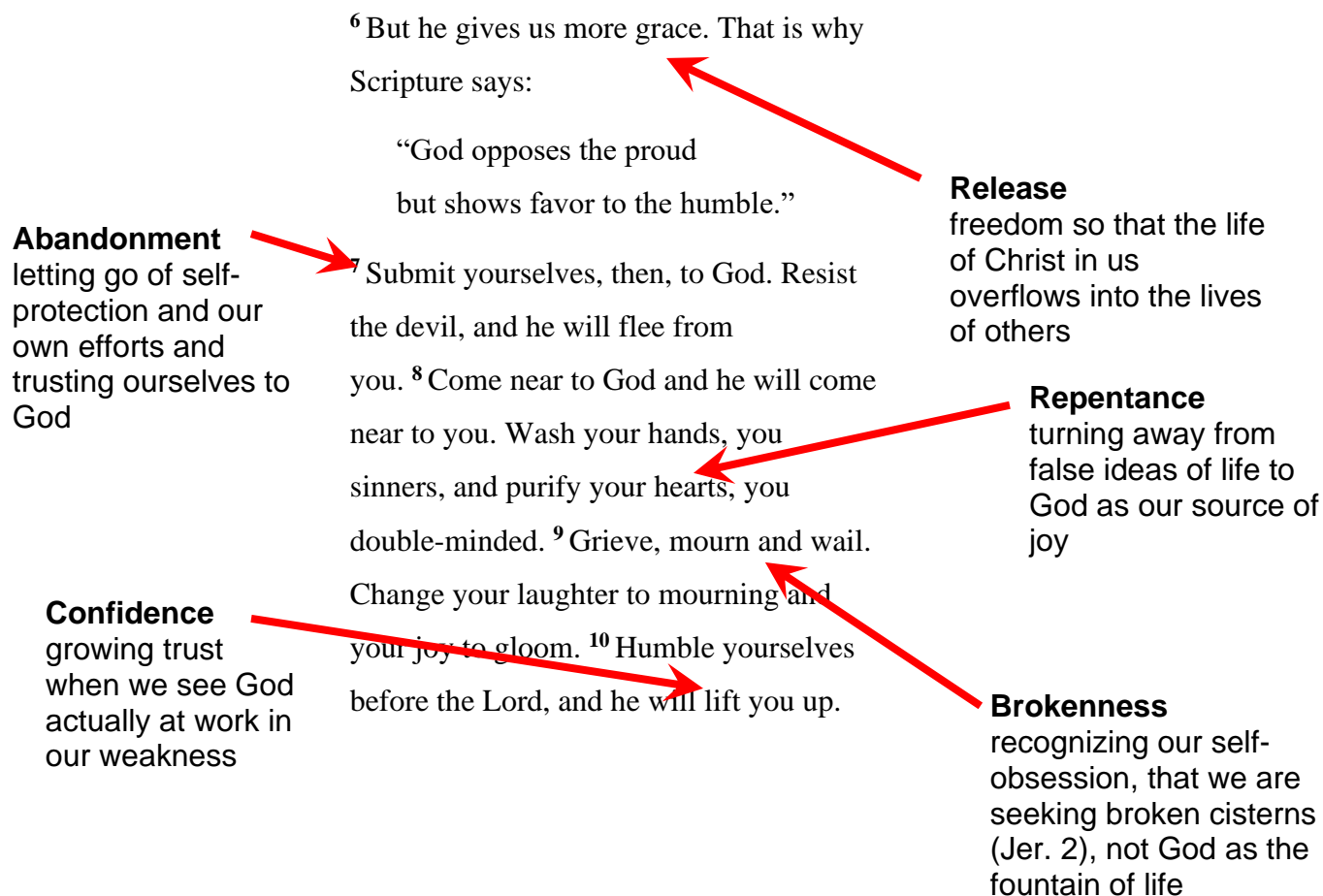


## James 4:6-10 Categories and the Cycle

Consider the main categories that James addresses in this passage. What other categories would you use to describe the process the James describes? How would these categories relate to spiritual formation, the work that God does in our hearts.



These categories are used in the “Cycle of Spiritual Formation” suggested by Larry Crabb:<sup>1</sup> “From brokenness, through repentance, into abandonment, toward confidence, resulting in release.

In brokenness over sin, we seek God as our first thing, pleading for his mercy, not screaming for our rights.

<sup>1</sup> Larry Crabb, *Soul Talk* (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, 2003), 235.

cf. Larry Crabb, *The Pressure's Off: There's A New Way to Live* (New York: Waterbrook, 2018), 180.

- from **brokenness**: “I’ve sinned against the one who sinned against me. My sin is as offensive to God as is his. And I’ve sinned against God by treating him like a second thing.”
- through **repentance**: “I’ve been on the religious journey, trying to do what it takes to make my life work and to feel alive. I want to trade in all that self-obsession for God-obsession.”
- into **abandonment**: “I’ll follow the Spirit wherever he tells me to go because I am willing to risk trusting God, even when he does nothing visible to warrant my trust.”
- toward **confidence**: “God’s been dancing all along. And now I’m walking onto the dance floor. I can hear the music. Look! I’m actually dancing, and I feel alive. Communion with the Trinity is real and fills the center of my soul. This is life!”
- resulting in **release**: “Now I want to bless those who have hurt me. My pain isn’t the point. Yes, I still hurt, but I’m becoming God-obsessed! I’m a little more like Jesus! And it’s who I really am. I’m discovering my true self. This is joy!”

