

## Drawing Near To God

James 4:1-10

## Review Of James

- Dealing With Temptations. 1:2-4
- Receive With Meekness. 1:21
- Fulfilling The Royal Law. 2:1-13
- Faith And Works. 2:14-26
- Taming The Tongue. 3:1-12
- Heavenly Wisdom versus Earthly Wisdom. 3:13-18
- Draw Near To God. 4:1-10

## Drawing Near To God

Worldliness Separates. James 4:1-4

- Worldliness – “interest in, concern with, or devotion to things of this world especially as opposed to a future stage of existence (as after death).” (Webster) cf. Titus 2:11
- Source of “wars and fights.” cf. Matthew 15:18-20
  - Lusts, pleasures. cf. Luke 8:14
  - Verse 2, so strong, you “kill and covet.” cf. 1 John 3:15; Matthew 5:21-22
  - Ask not. cf. Matthew 7:7-12; 21:22
  - Ask amiss ... motive wrong. Selfish gratification.
  - Priority. cf. Matthew 6:19-21, 33.

## Drawing Near To God

Spiritual Adultery. James 4:4-6

- Love for God compromised.
  - In OT God’s people pictured as His wife. Isaiah 54:5; Jeremiah 3:14; cf. Hosea 2:2-5; 3:1-5; 9:1
  - In NT church is the Bride of Christ. Ephesians 5:22-23; Romans 7:1-4
    - Espoused to one husband. 2 Corinthians 11:2-3
    - Singleness of affection. cf. Ephesians 6:5; Colossians. 3:22

## Drawing Near To God

Spiritual Adultery. James 4:4-6

- Friendship with the world, makes one an enemy of God. James 4:4; Colossians. 3:1-3; cf. Matthew 19:16-22; Matthew 6:2ff

## Drawing Near To God

Spiritual Adultery.

James 4:5 “Or think ye that the scripture speaketh in vain?”

No specific OT text referenced, yet a general teaching. cf. Genesis 6:3-7; Exodus 20:5; Deuteronomy 32:1-21

## Drawing Near To God

### Spiritual Adultery.

James 4:5 "Doth the spirit which he made to dwell in us long unto envying?" ASV

James 4:5 "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us." NASU

James 4:5 "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us." ESV

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## Drawing Near To God

### Spiritual Adultery.

Note: God created the human spirit for fellowship with Him and yearns for the loyalty and devotion of that spirit which He placed within us. cf. Genesis 1:28; John 4:24

Acts 17:27 "... that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us"

cf. Jeremiah 3:11-14; Hosea 2:19ff

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## Drawing Near To God

### Submitting Brings Blessings. James 4:6-10

- God "**gives**" grace.
  - World promises and doesn't deliver.
  - God "gives." Present tense.
    - Initial forgiveness. Ephesians 2:5; Romans 5:1ff, 20
    - We live by His grace. Hebrews 4:16 "grace and peace" to you all.
- "**More.**" "In a greater degree" (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

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## Drawing Near To God

### Submitting Brings Blessings. James 4:6-10

- God "gives" **GRACE**, "**To The Humble.**" **WHY?**
- Calls for decisive action:
  - "**Be Subject**" to God – Yield to His will. cf. Matthew 16:24
  - "**Resist the Devil**" – Do not yield. cf. 1 Peter 5:8-9
  - "**Draw near to God**" – Full assurance of faith. Hebrews 10:22

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## Drawing Near To God

### Submitting Brings Blessings (continued). James 4:6-10

- God "gives" **GRACE**, "**To The Humble.**" **WHY?**
- Calls for decisive action:
  - "**Cleanse your hands**" – by repentance. cf. Luke 13:3; 1 John 1:9
  - "**Purify your hearts**" – obey the truth. cf. 1 Peter 1:22
  - "**Be afflicted, mourn, weep**" – Godly sorrow for your sins. Matthew 5:4; cf. 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
  - "**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord.**" – cf. 1 Peter 5:5-6

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## Drawing Near To God

- Azariah told Asa, "**Jehovah is with you, while ye are with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.**" 2 Chronicles 15:2
- Jeremiah quotes God, "**And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**" Jeremiah 29:13
- "**Seek ye Jehovah while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto Jehovah, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**" Isaiah 55:6-7

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