

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; cf. Titus 2:11ff; 1 John 2:15

- 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)
- Source of “wars and fights.” cf. Matthew 15:18ff
 - Lusts, pleasures. cf. Luke 8:14
 - **Pleasures:** “the desire to get what one does not have and greatly desires” (Robertson, *Word Pictures*).
 - Verse 2, so strong, you “kill and covet.” cf. 1 John 3:15; Matthew 5:22
 - Ask not. cf. Matthew 7:7-9; 21:22
 - Ask amiss ... motive wrong. Selfish gratification.

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 6:24
- Desensitized! “I don’t see anything wrong with it.” *Ephesians 4:17ff*

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

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.
- God gives "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."
- Calls for decisive action: **HERE IS THE SOLUTION!**
 - "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. James 4:6-10

- God "gives" GRACE, "To The Humble."
- 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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