

GETTING CLOSER TO GOD

Jas. 4:8 [ESV]. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

A believer is only as close to God as he or she wants to be (**Jer. 29:13**).

I. That which draws us to God (4:5)

[WNT] *Or do you suppose that it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "The Spirit which He has caused to dwell in our hearts yearns jealously over us"?*

- A. The Scripture God spoke draws us
- B. The Spirit of God within draws us (**1 Cor. 3:16**)
 - 1. Envious love
 - 2. Earnest longing (**Rom. 5:5**)

II. That which distances us from God (4:1-4)

- A. The fighting within (1-3; **Rom. 7:23**)
 - 1. Desire for pleasure (**Jas. 4:13-15**)
 - Source of the war within
 - Source of the battle within
 - Source of the fight within
 - a. Desire and not have (**Jas. 1:14-15; Mk. 4:19; Tit. 3:3**)
 - b. Desire and not obtain (**1 Pet. 2:11; Ecc. 2:1, 10-11**)
 - 2. Do not pray (**Jas. 1:5; Mt. 7:7; Jn. 15:7**)
- B. The friendship without (4)
 - 1. Worldliness is adultery against God (**1 Jn. 2:15**)
 - 2. Worldliness is enmity against God (**Rom. 8:7**)
 - a. Seek the world
 - b. Settle in the world (**Gen. 19:26**)

III. That which draws God to us (4:6-12)

- A. Closer to God through humility
 - 1. God exalts the lowly (**Mt. 5:3; Lk. 14:11**)
 - 2. God opposes the high-minded (**Is. 2:11; Rom. 12:16**)
- B. Closer to God through surrender (**Acts 22:10**)
- C. Closer to God through resisting the tempter (**1 Pet. 5:9**)
 - 1. Stand against the foe (**Eph. 6:13**)
 - 2. Stand until the flight (**Mt. 4:11**)
- D. Closer to God through cleansing (**2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Jn. 1:7**)
- E. Closer to God through purity (**1 Jn. 3:3; Jas. 1:8**)
- F. Closer to God through sorrow (**Mt. 5:4; 2 Cor. 7:10**)
- G. Closer to God through harmony (**Eph. 4:29**)
 - 1. Speak not against one another (**Jas. 5:9**)
 - 2. Judge not a brother (**Lev. 19:16; Mt. 7:1**)