



Drawing Near To God (Part 4) Sunday August 28, 2005

James 4:8

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

When God draws near to us:

- He reveals Himself to us so that we know and understand something more of who He is, we know His heart and hear His secret whispers, the things He wishes to communicate to us.
- He touches us and impregnates us with Himself so that we are changed, renewed, refreshed, healed and we experience who He is. Even our circumstance and life situations are changed.
- He gives us evidence of His presence – many times there is a tangible recognition of His being near to us

Today – Last message in this series:

How do I draw near to God?

How do we develop intimacy with God?

- Intimacy through purity of heart
- Intimacy through purity of life (righteous living)
- Intimacy through worship
- Intimacy through prayer, meditation and fasting
- Intimacy through intercession

Intimacy through purity of heart

James 4:8 purify your hearts you double-minded

Double minded : those who were vacillating in their purposes; whose hearts are not decidedly fixed, being divided between their affections for God and their affections for the world. It means, properly, one who has two souls; then one who is wavering or inconstant. It is applicable to a man who has no settled principles; who is controlled by passion; who is influenced by popular feeling; who is now inclined to one opinion or course of conduct, and now to another.

The root cause of double-mindedness is in many cases an impure heart.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure (*clean*) in heart: for they shall see God.

pure in heart

The heart is the seat of motives, desires and attitudes. To have a pure heart is to have pure motives, godly desires and right attitudes.

An impure heart is a heart with wrong motives, wrong desires and wrong attitudes.

They shall see God

see = gaze with eyes wide open different from voluntary perception

There is a sense in which all will see God, Revelation 1:7. That is, they will behold him as a Judge, not as a Friend. To see the face of one, or to be in the presence of any one, were terms among the Jews expressive of great favor. It was regarded as a high honor to be in the presence of kings and princes, and to be permitted to see them. So here, **to see God, means to know Him as His friend, to dwell with Him in His presence and to have His favour on your life,** and eventually to see Him in His kingdom.

Hebrews 10:22

Let us draw near with a true (*truthful*) heart in full assurance (*entire confidence*) of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.



Psalm 51:6

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Desirest = to have pleasure in; to delight in; and the idea is that this only is agreeable to God, or this only accords with his own nature

Inward parts = the inner being comprising the spirit and the soul. Also used of the mind, the feelings, the intellect

Psalm 145:18

An impure heart will hinder my intimacy with God.

Intimacy through purity of life (righteous living)

James 4:8 cleanse your hands

Psalm 4:3 Psalm 15:1-5 Psalm 26:6

The priests has to be ceremonially clean to minister before the Lord.

Exodus 19:22 Exodus 30:20 Exodus 40:32

Intimacy through personal worship

Psalm 95:6 99:5

Loving him, thanking him, glorifying Him, celebrating Him, adoring Him, worshiping Him

Intimacy through prayer, meditation and fasting

Daniel 9:3

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

Intimacy through private intercession

Exodus 28:1-30 Revelation 8:3,4 Numbers 16:40

In intercession you are standing before God on behalf of some one else.

You are involved in the very work that God did to redeem man.

Our goal is not intercession in itself. Our goal is intimacy with God. Intercession is a doorway through which we gain intimacy with God.