



Drawing Near To God (Part 1 & Part 2)  
Sunday August 7 & 14, 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.

This verse implies several things:

I must make the first effort to draw near to God. If I make the first move, then God responds by drawing near to me.

What does it mean to draw near to God?

Why should I draw near to God?

What happens when I draw near to God?

How do I draw near to God?

How do I know that I am drawing near to God?

Can I stay near to God? How do I stay near to God all the time?

What things could hinder me from drawing near to God?

What does it mean to have God draw near to me?

What happens when God draws near to me?

Will use the terms drawing near to God and intimacy with God interchangeably.

**What does it mean to draw near to God?**

Or What does it mean to be intimate with God?

It is not a physical thing rather a spiritual thing.

John 4:20-24 Acts 7:48-50

God responds to the condition of our heart

Isaiah 29:13

Also quoted in Matthew 15:8

Psalms 34:18

So what does it mean to draw near to God?

Psalms 27:4,8 Psalms 42:1,2 Psalms 63:1

To draw near to God is to have a heart that is pursuing Him, to have a heart that is seeking Him. It is to have an intense desire for Him. It is to have a longing inside for Him. This inner longing then translates into time spent in seeking Him through worship, prayer, reading of the Word – primarily in private, but also corporately with others who share the same passion.

An intense desire to know Him

An intense desire to be with Him in His presence

An intense desire to hear His heart

An intense desire to do His will

Often, we have confused Christian activity as passion for God. We look at some one who is busies himself with activity and we call it passion for God. But correctly, you could have activity that is birthed out of a search for accomplishment, a search for significance, a search for recognition – without having anything to



do with a heart that is genuinely after God! Instead our emphasis must be first on a heart that is set after God and out of this must come activity that is a response to the expression of the desires of His heart.

### Why should I draw near to God?

#### 1. We are called to intimacy with God

1 Timothy 6:15,16

Called to fellowship with God

1 Corinthians 1:9 1 John 1:3

Fellowship Greek "*koinonia*" = to have all things in common, to share all things

James 2:20

Abraham a friend of God

Abraham always had an altar – a meeting place with God Genesis 12:7,8 13:14,18

#### 2. Called to be priest unto our God

1 Peter 2:5,6 Revelation 1:6

The Lord Jesus has appointed us as priests unto the Father.

Exodus 28:1-3,41 Exodus 29:1 Ezekiel 44:15,16

The number one responsibility of the priesthood was to minister to God. So we must invest our lives in ministering to God. We are going to be priests for ever.

To minister to God is to wait on Him. It is to offer to Him "the fat and the blood" – the sacrifices of rich praise, worship, adoration and redemptive intercession.

We were created for His pleasure. Revelation 4:11

Satan opposes you because you are a potential source of pleasure to God. Therefore satan's real objective is to cause you to grieve God's heart.

We draw near to God, so that we can minister to Him as His priests.

#### 3. God has made it so easy to approach Him through Jesus Christ

Numbers 16:40

In The OT any one who was not a priest could not offer incense to the Lord.

Leviticus 21:16-24

Even a priest who was deformed could not minister before the Lord.

Things have changed so much in the New Covenant.

Hebrews 7:19 Hebrews 10:14-22 Ephesians 2:12,13 Ephesians 3:12 Hebrews 4:16



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>