

## Drawing Near To God

James 4:1-10

*"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."* verse 8

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## 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 15:18ff
  - 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 7:7-9; 21:22, "*And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*"
- Ask amiss ... motive wrong. Selfish gratification.

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## Drawing Near To God

### "Ye Adulteresses" James 4:4-6

- Love for God compromised.
  - In Old Testament God's people pictured as His wife. Isaiah 54:5; Jeremiah 3:14; cf. Hosea 2:2-5; 3:1-5; 9:1
  - In New Testament 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
  - Friendship with the world, makes one an enemy of God. James 4:4; Colossians 3:1-3; cf. Matthew 6:19, 33; 19:16-22

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## Drawing Near To God

### "Priorities" ...

- The word **priority** came into the English language in the 1400s. It was singular. It meant the very first or prior thing. It stayed singular for the next five hundred years.
- Only in the 1900s did we pluralize the term and start talking about **priorities**. Illogically, we reasoned that by changing the word we could bend reality. Somehow we would now be able to have multiple "*first*" things.
- People and companies routinely try to do just that. One leader told me of this experience in a company that talked of "Pri-1, Pri-2, Pri-3, Pri-4, and Pri-5." This gave the impression of many things being the priority, but actually meant nothing was. (Greg McKeown, Essentialism)

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### "Ye Adulteresses" James 4:4-6

James 4:5, "*Or think ye that the scripture speaketh in vain?*"

No specific Old Testament text referenced.

- Is the "*spirit*" the Holy Spirit or the human spirit?
- Is the spirit to be taken as the subject of the verb "*yearns*" or as its object?
- Is "*envy*" to be seen as "unrighteous desire" or as "righteous jealousy"?

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## Drawing Near To God

### "Ye Adulteresses" James 4:4-6

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

### **“Ye Adulteresses” James 4:4-6**

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

Jeremiah 3:14, *“Return, O backsliding children, saith Jehovah; for I am a husband unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion”* (cf. Hosea 2:19ff)

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.”*

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## Drawing Near To God

### **“Submit therefore unto God” James 4:6-10**

- cf. Proverbs 3:34, *“Surely he scoffeth at the scoffers; But he giveth grace unto the lowly.”*
- Only by submitting to God can His blessings be received.
- God **“gives”** grace to the humble.
  - World promises and doesn’t deliver.
  - God **“gives”** (present tense) and delivers.
    - 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

### **“Submit therefore unto God.” James 4:6-10**

- God “gives” **GRACE**, **“To The Humble.”**
- **DRAWING NEAR TO GOD CALLS FOR DECISIVE ACTION!**
  - **“Be Subject”** to God – Yield to His will. cf. Matthew 16:24, *“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”*
  - **“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

### **“Submit therefore unto God.” James 4:6-10**

- ... **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. Psalms 34:18, *“Jehovah is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as are of a contrite spirit.”* cf. Psalms 51; cf. 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
  - **“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord.”** – cf. 1 Peter 5:5-6

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### **“HE shall exalt you.” James 4:6-10**

- Matthew 23:5-12; cf. Matthew 6 – Those who wanted to be exalted **among the people**.
- 1 Peter 5:5-6, *“... Yea, all of you gird yourselves with humility, to serve one another: for God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that **HE** may exalt you in due time.”*

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## Drawing Near To God

- Azariah told Asa, king of Judah, *“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)
- **“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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## Acts 2