

DRAWING NEARER TO GOD

Introduction

- 1) Have there been times in your life when God seemed “far away”? Don’t we all want to have God near us, to have a bond together in heart and mind?
- 2) The good news is that we CAN have God near us IF we will draw near to Him (Jas. 4:8)
- 3) God is “not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:27)
- 4) Must not make the same mistake others made who did *not* draw near to God (Zeph. 3:2)
 - a) We can be drawn in *other* directions – away from God (Jas. 1:14)
- 5) Why, how, and when should we “draw near to God”?

I) Why Should We Draw Near to God?

A) *To Know God*

- 1) As God’s children, we should know our Father (Gal. 4:4-9)
- 2) We know the Father through His Son, Jesus (1 Jn. 5:20)
- 3) Knowing God gives us confidence about His promises (2 Tim. 1:12)

B) *To Gain True Spirituality/Knowledge/Wisdom*

- 1) Must go to the source of true spirituality – God
 - a) Source of our own spirits (Eccl. 12:7; Heb. 12:9)
 - b) All spiritual blessings are through Christ (Eph. 1:3)
 - c) All treasures of wisdom and knowledge in Christ (Col. 2:2-3)

C) *Help in Times of Trouble*

- 1) We need God’s help in times of physical and spiritual trouble
- 2) Provides way of escape from temptation and sin (1 Cor. 10:13; Isa. 55:6-7)
- 3) Physical trials increase our need for God (Job 1:21; 2:10)
- 4) No true, lasting help from money, material things, fame, etc. (Heb. 11:24-26)
- 5) Imitate faith of Moses, Elijah, Daniel – men close to God (cf. Rom. 8:31)

D) *Gain Eternal Life*

- 1) “To whom shall we go” than to the Lord? (Jn. 6:68)
- 2) God gives His people the hope of eternal life (1 Jn. 5:11-13)

E) *We Cannot Obtain Any of These Things On Our Own (Jer. 10:23)!*

II) How Should We Draw Near to God?

A) *How NOT to draw near to God* (Matthew 15:8-9)

- 1) We must not try to draw near to God with “lip-service” when our heart is “far” from God (cf. Lk. 6:46)

B) *How to draw near to God*

- 1) We are invited to “come” to the Lord Jesus (Matt. 11:28-30)
- 2) Only way to come to the Father is through Christ (Jn. 14:6)
- 3) We come to the Lord through hearing and doing Word (Jn. 6:44-45)
- 4) True conviction of the heart involves hearing and doing exactly what God desires
 - a) By this means we draw close to God in true fellowship

III) When Should We Draw Near to God?

A) *Constantly!* Why? The constant need for spiritual fellowship, blessings, and protection from the constant threat posed by Satan

B) Psalm 22:11; 73:28; 145:17-18; 119:145-151

Conclusion

Consider the words of the song, “Nearer, Still Nearer”

Are you interested in drawing near to God? If so, have you prepared yourself to do so (Jas. 4:8-10)? Only those who are prepared may *draw near* the divine throne of grace (Heb. 4:16)