

DRAW NEAR TO GOD

James 4:8

Think about getting a letter in the mail that says, “Please accept this invitation to draw near to the President of the United States and dine with them.” You and I have been extended an even greater privilege in life. We each have had an invitation to draw near to God – the Creator!!

I believe we should all seek to build a close relationship to God. We should desire to do whatever is needed to get close and stay close. Acts 17:27 says, *“that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us.”*

This nearness spoken of in Acts 17 does not have to do with geographical location, but with relationship. That is the most profound thing about this. Every one of us can be close to God or we can choose to be separated from Him. Separation is the easy part - the great separator is sin.

THE ONE TO WHOM WE SHOULD DRAW NEAR.

- God is All Powerful and Wise. Rev. 19:6; Ps. 147:5; Heb. 4:13
- He is to be Revered/Feared. Psalm 111:9; 76:7; 90:11; Rom. 2:5
- He is full of Love, Mercy. Psalm 86:15; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4
- He is willing to be approached. He is not like heathen gods of Greek mythology where men were always working to appease their anger.

MEANS OF DRAWING NEAR (TO THE SINNER).

- Must come through Christ. Eph. 2:18; Heb. 7:25
- Made near by the blood of Christ. Eph. 2:13
- Drawn by hearing and learning of the Father. John 6:44-45
- Comes to God in accord with His will. Heb. 10:9-10; 7:19
- Be careful not to be misled. Eph. 4:14

MEANS OF DRAWING NEAR (TO THE CHILD OF GOD).

- Let us draw near with true hearts. Heb. 10:22; Ps. 34:18
- Let us draw nearby in prayer. Psalm 145:18; Heb. 4:16
- Let us draw near in our worship. In our songs. Heb. 13:15. In the Lord's Supper. 1 Cor. 10:16
- Let us draw near, by daily godly living. 1 John 1:7

REMEMBER, WE MAY DRAW AWAY.

- Our hearts can be far away. Matt. 15:8-9
- Some draw back to perdition. Heb. 10:39; Hosea 11:7
- We draw back when we rebel against any command. Jer. 6:16; 18:12
- We draw back when we ignore any commandment. James 4:17

REMEMBER, WE CAN & SHOULD COME VERY NEAR.

- Near enough to be Friends with God. James 2:23; John 15:13-14
- Near enough to be in God's Family. 1 John 3:1; Hos. 1:10
- Near enough to cry Abba Father. Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:15
- Near enough to be in God's Circle of Love. John 17:22-26

BLESSINGS FOR DRAWING NEAR (FROM THE PSALMS).

- Will put gladness in our hearts, Ps. 4:7
- Will surround us with a shield, Ps. 4:12
- Will be a refuge in times of trouble, Ps. 9:9
- Will lift us up from the gates of death, Ps. 9:13
- Will deal bountifully with us, Ps. 13:6
- Will show His marvelous lovingkindness, Ps. 17:7

- Will be a support and deliverer, Ps. 18:18
- Will arm us with strength, Ps. 18:32
- Will bring us out of our distresses, Ps. 25:17
- Will strengthen our hearts, Ps. 27:14

BLESSINGS FOR DRAWING NEAR (FROM THE NT).

- Will not allow us to be over tempted, 1 Cor. 10:13
- Will aid us when we are tempted, Heb. 2:18
- Will give grace to help in time of need, Heb. 4:16
- Will never leave or forsake us, Heb. 13:5
- Will provide and care for us, 1 Pet. 5:7
- Will give peace of mind, Phil. 4:6-7
- Will love us and make His abode with us, John 14:23
- Will guide and strengthen us, 1 Pet. 5:10
- Will present us faultless with exceeding joy, Jude 24-25

Conclusion

- Nearness to God rests with us. James 4:8
- Let us not be alienated through wicked works.
- Let us call upon Him in accord with truth and out of a pure heart.
Ps. 145:18