

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

James 4:8; HE 10:21-22

- I. EXPOSITION OF JAMES 4:8.
 - A. Drawing near to God is a continuous process, not a one-time event.
 - B. How do we draw near to God?
 - 1. Not physically.
 - 2. But Spiritually.
 - C. Who initiates the process?
 - 1. God originally initiated the process by calling people. GE 3:6; 2 TH 2:14.
 - 2. But now the initiative is ours. We must do something. RO 3:23; MT 11:28-30.
 - D. What are the benefits of drawing near to God?
 - 1. Joy – Acts 8:39; 16:34.
 - 2. Escaping and bearing temptation. 1 CO 0:13.
- II. EXPOSITION OF HEBREWS 10:21-22.
 - A. What is the process of drawing near to God?
 - 1. Symbolic of the OT way.
 - 2. HE 10:21-22.
 - 3. NU 9:15-23.
 - 4. HE 9:11.
 - B. Drawing near to God is a continuous process.
 - 1. Process Step 1: Draw near with a true heart.
 - a. We must have honest and sincere minds. PR 4:23; MT 5:8; LK 8:15.
 - b. We must obey the truth through sincere love. 1 PE 1:22.
 - 2. Process Step 2: Have a full assurance of faith.
 - a. There are degrees of faith (i.e. no, little, weak, strong), but faith that saves is fully assured. Acts 8:37; HE 11:6.
 - b. We must not doubt God lives and saves. JA 1:6.
 - 3. Process Step 3: Have our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.
 - a. The heart/mind is cleansed of a guilty conscience. HE 9:14; 2 CO 7:10.
 - b. Sorrow and guilt over our sins drives us to repent. JA 4:9-10.
 - 4. Process Step 4: Our bodies must be washed with pure water.
 - a. Baptism (immersion) in water cleanses us of sins. GA 3:27; Acts 22:16; 1 PE 3:21.
 - b. Sins must be removed. 1 JN 1:9-10; 2:1-2.

CONCLUSION

- A. We need to remember:
 - 1. We initiate the continuous process of spiritually drawing near to God resulting in joy and blessings. JA 4:8-10. How close are you to God?
 - 2. The continuous process of drawing near to God involves 4 key steps. HE 10:21-22.
 - a. Draw near with a true heart.
 - b. Have a full assurance of faith.
 - c. Have our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.
 - d. Our bodies must be washed with pure water.
 - 3. JA 2:23. Is God our closest and dearest friend?
- B. Drawing near to God is a growing relationship.