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***“Drawing Close to God”***

**James 4:1-10**

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According to this passage drawing close to God requires certain action steps:

1. **We must admit our need for his help.**

**4 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you? 2 You want what you don’t have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can’t get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it. 3 And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.**

**Romans 7:**21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. 22 I love God’s law with all my heart. 23 But there is another power[e] within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. 24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God’s law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

1. **We must repent of our wrong behavior.**

9 **Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.** 10 **Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.**

**”Mt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”**

1. **We Must Embrace God’s Love and Grace.**

5 **Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him.** 6 **And he gives grace generously.**

1. In grace, he invites us to value our friendship with him above our friendship with the world.

Isaiah 6:3 “...**the whole earth is filled with his glory!”**

**1 Timothy 6:17New Living Translation (NLT)**

**Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.**

2. In grace, he purifies our desires.

**Galatians 5:19-23New Living Translation (NLT)**

**19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**

**22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!**

**Psalm 37:4** **Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires.**

3. In grace, God promises to answer our prayers.

**Philippians 4:6-7New Living Translation (NLT)**

**6 Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.**

**it is natural to for us to begin our prayers with our needs and I don’t think this passage condemns that.**

4. In his Grace, God limits the devils power and makes it possible for us to have victory over his schemes.

V 7 **So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

**John 6:37 NIV All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.**

**10 “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.”**