

Keeping Your Soul Tethered to Christ

By LaDon Harrell

PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. If God promises to draw near to those who draw near to Him, what does it reveal about someone who consistently feels distant from God but has no desire to repent?
2. What is the difference between “cleansing your hands” and “purifying your heart”? Why does James command both?
3. Why does James address his readers as “sinners” and “double-minded”? What does this tell us about the spiritual condition of believers who compromise with the world?
4. Can someone sincerely seek closeness with God while knowingly holding on to a sinful lifestyle? Why or why not? Support your answer with scripture.
5. If you were to evaluate your own life honestly, what evidence would show that you are actively drawing near to God rather than merely maintaining religious activity?
6. Is drawing near to God primarily an emotional experience or a deliberate act of obedience? Defend your answer from Scripture.
7. How would you respond to someone who says, “God feels far away,” after examining James 4:8? What questions would you ask them before giving encouragement?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO BRING YOU CLOSER TO GOD

Psalm 145:18

New American Standard Bible 1995

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

Jeremiah 29:13

New American Standard Bible 1995

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

Acts 17:27

New American Standard Bible 1995

that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION TO OUR LIVES

- Keep our daily routines mindful of Christ.
- Meditate on Bible verses through the day, maybe even memorize them.
- Perform acts of service as worship volunteering, check on your friends and family, send encouraging text or cards.
- Sing worship songs to Christ, listen to uplifting music.
- When you are going through a difficult time, reach out to someone else to encourage, bring a smile to their face.
- Use your social media to share good news of Christ, promoting the gospel.
- Replace anxiety with prayer.