

Draw Near to God – James 4:8

*And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

- Philippians 4:7

*²⁸ “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-ladened, and I will give you **rest**. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”*

- Matthew 11:28-30

*³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all **comfort**, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

- II Corinthians 1:3-4

*¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will remain in **My love**; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in **His love**. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you so that **My joy** may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

- John 15:10-11



Draw Near to God – James 4:8

- Too Busy
 - Not a priority
 - Distracted by things we want more than we want the relationship
- Guilt, Shame, Lack of Self Worth
 - Guilt or Shame from past mistakes
 - “They really don’t want to talk or spend time with me”
- Don’t Know How
- Don’t Get Anything Out Of It



Draw Near to God – James 4:8

- Too Busy
 - Not a priority
 - Distracted by things we want more than we want the relationship
- James 3 & 4
 - 3:13-15 – Jealousy and selfish ambition
 - 4:1-3 – Stop asking for things, or wrong motives
 - 4:4 – This is Adultery!
- The solution
 - 4:7 – Submit to God. Resist the Devil
 - 4:8 – Draw near to God
 - 4:8-9 – Cleanse and purify yourselves
 - 4:9 – Mourn and weep (Matthew 5:4)
 - 4:10 – Humble yourselves



Draw Near to God – James 4:8

- Guilt, Shame, Lack of Self Worth
 - Guilt or Shame from past mistakes
 - Difficulty removing something from your life
 - This comes out in our prayer life!
 - “God really doesn’t want to hear from me...”
- Solution
 - Refer to previous point
 - Re-read Luke 15 (Prodigal Son)



Draw Near to God – James 4:8

- Don't Know How
 - Prayers seem repetitive and meaningless
- Solution
 - Ephesians 6:18 – “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit...”
 - Romans 8:26 – Emotions and words
 - How do I pray “in the Spirit?”
 - When I feast on the Word, I know how to live (Galatians 5:22)
 - When I feast on the Word, I know how to talk to God
 - Psalm 25, Psalm 8, etc.
 - Matthew 6:9-13 – Jesus taught us how to pray
 - (A)cknowledgement – Prayer is worship!
 - (C)onfession – See point 1
 - (T)hankfulness – Philippians 4:6
 - (S)pecial Requests – Give us this day our daily bread



Draw Near to God – James 4:8

- Don't Get Anything Out Of It
 - Are we just checking a box?
 - Do we have faith in God's providence?
 - Are we looking for God's answers to our prayers?
 - Do we come out of prayer the same as we went into it?
- Solution
 - Our relationship with God
 - Mark 14:36 – Abba! Father!
 - Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6
 - Ask Big Things... – Matthew 7:7-11

