



Drawing Near To God

Songs

- Nearer My God To Thee
- Nearer Still Nearer
- Near To The Heart of God
- Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross

False Views

- Turn down lights, hold hands...
- 'We felt the presence of God during our worship'
- 'While I was praying somebody touched me . . . It must have been the hand of the Lord'

Contrast James 5:8

I. WHO DRAWS NEAR?

God does.

- Jn.12:32.
- Hb.7:19, hope brought in by better covenant

Levitical priesthood kept men at a distance. Uzziah. Lv.16, no access

Mk.15:38

Access through Christ. Hb.4:16

God does.

God's people do.

- Hb.10:19-22, full assurance of faith

I. WHO DRAWS NEAR?

II. WHY DRAW NEAR?

Hb.10:...24-25, love

1. Faith, hope, love (22-24)
2. 1 Jn.4:19 – Hb.10:25

Hb.10:...24-25, love

Hb.10:38, avoid apostasy

- 38: draw back: withdraw, as Ga.2:12
 - ▶ Be hesitant with regard to something
 - ▶ To cease, stop, give up
- 39: 'we do not belong to those who are timid, in ct. to those who are earnestly committed' – BDAG

Hb.10:...24-25, love

Hb.10:38, avoid apostasy

- 38: draw back: withdraw, as Ga.2:12
- Opposite of drawing back: draw near
 1. Recall first love, 32-34.
 2. Recover confidence, 35 (19).
 3. Receive reward, 35 (2 Jn.8).
 4. Resolve to endure, 36-39.

Hb.10:...24-25, love

Hb.10:38, avoid apostasy

Gn.24, successful marriage

Work; chose right woman;
God is most of the decision

1. Gn.2

2. 1 K.16:31; 21:25

3. Mt.19:3-9

**Pharisees focus on
putting away**

**Jesus focuses on
preserving plan**

Hb.10:...24-25, love

Hb.10:38, avoid apostasy

Gn.24, successful marriage

2 K.20, facing death

- In bed at night, remember death,
Ps.63:5-7
- Ps.15

I. WHO DRAWS NEAR?

II. WHY DRAW NEAR?

III. WAY TO DRAW NEAR?

James 4:7, submit to God

- As soldier under sergeant
- Gn.39

James 4:7a, submit to God

Ja.4:7b, **resist devil**

- Sin is our fault (Ja.1:14)
- Satan helps
 - Resist – 1 Pt.5:9.
 - Flee – Mt.4. 1 Co.6:18.

James 4:7a, submit to God

Ja.4:7b, resist devil

Ja.4:8, **draw near to God**

- Lk.15
 - Obey gospel, Hb.10:22 (5:9)
 - Live in hope of heaven, Hb.7:19
 - Purity of hands, hearts, Ja.4:8
 - Ja.1:8. Mt.27:24

James 4:7a, submit to God

Ja.4:7b, resist devil

Ja.4:8, draw near to God

Ja.4:9, **repent**

- Contrasts pleasure seeker and penitent
- Ps.51

James 4:7a, submit to God

Ja.4:7b, resist devil

Ja.4:8, draw near to God

Ja.4:9, repent

Ja.4:10, **humble**

- 6, humility [7-9] 10, humility

'For whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted' - Lk.14:11.

- Friends, families, marriages...drift apart. How to draw near?

Time

Talk / listen

Stay

Some drift away from God. What to do?

Time with God: personal studies

Talk to God: 1 Pt.5:7

Stay connected . . .

- Family worship
- Congregational worship
- Godly friends

