

Four Ways to Draw Near To God – Part 2

Previously we discussed drawing nearer to God by removing sin from our lives and by studying God's Word. Let's pick right back up with the other two facets of drawing nearer to God.

Thirdly, we should spend time with God's people. God has blessed us with the blessing of His people while living on earth. One indication of how close we are to God is how close we are to the people of God. When people obey the Gospel, they are added to the church (Acts 2:47). God does not save us and place us on an island or in a monastery. Instead, God places people in His family, the house of God (1 Tim. 3:15). When Saul was persecuting the church, Jesus claimed that Saul was persecuting Him (Acts 9:1-6). What people do to the church they do to Christ. Therefore, when people do good with and for God's people, they do it to Him as well (Mt. 25:31-46). Too many people in the world and in the church think they can have a great relationship with God and a poor relationship with His people. No one is on good terms with God who is on bad terms with God's faithful people (1 Jn. 4:20-21). If we want to draw close to God, we should draw close to the people of God. Attend the assembly faithfully (Heb. 10:25). Encourage other Christians every chance you get (Heb. 3:13, 10:24). Bear one another's burdens and lean upon each other (Rom. 12:15; Gal. 6:2). If we want to be close to God we should be as close to His people as we can. God's representation on the earth are His people, and we should be sure not to forget this (2 Cor. 3:2). Fourthly, we should pray without ceasing. Drawing close to God involves praying incessantly (1 Thess. 5:17). God has blessed Christians with every spiritual blessing, one of which is prayer (Eph. 1:3). Only the Christian can call on God and be assured that he or she is heard (Heb. 4:16). When we pray according to God's Will, He hears us (1 Jn. 5:14-15). God invites us to cast all of our cares on Him (1 Pet. 5:7). Do you want to be close to God? How is your prayer life? How frequent do you pray? What do you pray for? David was a man after God's own heart. David prayed three times a day (Psa. 55:17). Daniel was in Babylon praying three times a day as well (Dan. 6:10). There is no Biblical quota for how many times one must pray in order to be spiritual, but we must pray. Paul says pray continually. While we cannot pray at every moment of every day, there should not be much time which passes between our talking to God in prayer. God speaks to us through His Word and we speak to Him through our prayers (Lk. 18:1-8). Prayer is not based on eloquence, but instead it is based on our effort. If we make the effort to pray to God, we will be closer. Our cares will be heard in heaven where we are assured God is working all things for our good (Rom. 8:28). In conclusion James tells Christians to draw near to God. This is impressive because it shows that we can, and that it is our choice. How close to God are you today? We are all as close to God as we choose to be. If you want to get closer, take the biblical steps to do so. God will draw close to us if we draw close to Him.