

DRAW NEAR TO GOD

Request: “I hear Christians talk about ‘drawing near to God and He will draw near to them’. Everyone seems to have his own idea of what it means. Could you explain what it means?”

The most quoted verses on this subject: (Jms.4:8a) “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

Once again, we are reminded of the importance of context to a verse, Jms.4:1-10.

We will divide the context into two parts of study.

- Jms.4:1-6 Hedonism reversionism (Jms.4:1) [hedone / lust or desire]
- Jms.4:7-10 Hedonism recovery (Jms.4:10) [aorist imperatives / commands]

What part of the context is our verse? _____

Draw near is 1 of the 10 commands given for hedonism recovery (submit, resist, draw near, cleanse, purify, be afflicted, mourn, weep, turn and humble yourself).

We will study four aspects of Draw Near to God based on the context of Jms.4:1-10.

1. Hedonistic Reversionism (H/R) attacks every apparatus of the soul like a spreading cancer.

Hedonism operates from kakos evil or depravity side of the dark world (Jms.4:3) [amiss or wrong motives]. It is a type of depravity that shocks the good people of the world.

An example of hedonistic reversionism is found in 1 Cor.5:1 - “It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife.”

Reversionism is retrogression from any stage of spiritual enlightenment because of Negative Volition being expressed through disobedience to this spiritual enlightenment (Eph.4:17-20; Prov.14:14) [backsliding].

2. Under hedonistic reversionism, your emotion becomes the dominating apparatus of the soul resulting in a frantic search for the base sensual pleasures of the OSN - with evil intentions.

Because it operates by kakos [evil], it can lead the believer into the depth of depravity which is anti-establishment, anti-social and criminal behavior beyond imagination. It can occur while still attending church (1 Cor.5).

What happens to your SOUL

S/C	seared	(1 Tim.4:1-2)
C	numb	(Heb.10:22)
M	callous	(Eph.4:17-19)
E	whacko, off the deep end	(Acts 1:16-20)
V	OMCD	(Luke 17:32; Prov.23:7)

Before James closes the first part, he quotes Prov.3:34 – “Go is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (Jms.4:6)

3. In the second part (Jms.4:7-10), James gives 10 aorist imperative commands for recovery from hedonistic reversionism.

What is interesting is that there are three promises connected with these 10 commands:

- Resist
- draw near
- humble yourself

It seems that the writer broke them down into three steps of recovery.

- **First step** - Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (Jms.4:7) - **Promise**
- **Second step** – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. (Jms.4:8-9) - **Promise**
- **Third step** – Humble yourselves in the presence of the lord, and He will exalt you.” (Jms.4:10) **Peter used the same quote of Prov.3:34 in 1 Pet.5:5-6 - Promise**

4. Jesus gave a parable to dramatize these three steps in recovery from hedonism reversionism (Luke 15:11-24)

- **First step** (Luke 15:17-19) Submit and resist + **promise:**

- **Second step** (Luke 15:20-21) Draw near, cleanse, purify, be miserable, mourn, weep, turn + **promise**

- **Third step** (Luke 15:22-24) Humble yourself + **promise**
