

James 4:7-10

Drawing Near to God

One of the great characteristics of God is that He is a personal God who desires to have a relationship with us. For the unbeliever, a relationship with God cannot even occur until their sin is forgiven through faith in Christ. For the believer, sin may no longer prevent a relationship with God, but it can still creep in and rob us of the close walk God desires to have with us. Let's see how a close walk with God is maintained:

> What two commands are in [verse 7](#), and what is the result? Submit to God and resist the devil. The devil will flee from us.

> What is the command and result in [verse 8a](#)? What two things are required for this to happen ([v. 8b](#))? Draw near to God, He will draw near to you. Clean hands (actions) and a pure heart.

> [Verse 9](#) shows that understanding the seriousness of our sin and turning to God cannot be taken lightly. When we demonstrate such humility, what is the result ([v. 10](#))? God says He will lift us up (He restores our fellowship with Him).

Application

Experiencing God's grace and forgiveness is awesome. But just because God grants us these things does not mean that He takes sin any less seriously. Sin will always be destructive, and sin will always hurt our walk with God. If you know your walk with God is not what it is supposed to be, review these commands and consider how they can apply to your situation:

Submit to God → Resist the Devil → Draw near to God → Cleanse your hands → Purify your hearts → Mourn and weep → Humble yourself in the sight of God.

Knowing God is one thing, having a close relationship with Him is other! Draw near to God and He will draw near to you!