PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR A CLOSER WALK

AUGUST 30, 2017
PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR A CLOSER WALK

• **To Submit To God** -- We Need To Yield To His Authority In Our Lives And His Will For Our Lives

• **To Resist Satan:**
  • Give Him No Footholds
  • Put On Full Armor of God
  • Be Self-Controlled & Alert
  • Stand Firm in the Faith
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- (James 4:7-10 NIV) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (8) Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (9) Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
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Come Near To God

- *(James 4:8a NIV)* Come near to God and he will come near to you.

- A Decision To Turn Towards God -- Go In His Direction -- Get Near Him
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• Drawing Close Is The First Step

• Drawing Close Includes Choosing What Is Great Over That Which Is Good

• Good Things Can Rob Us Of The Greatest Thing: A Relationship With God
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To Make The Move Towards God

• Return To Church
• Choose To Encounter God In Worship
• Make A Public Declaration To Draw Near
• Daily Time At Christ’s Feet
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• God Is More Than Eager To Draw As Close To You As You Will Let Him

• A Wonderful Invitation -- An Incredible Promise

• (James 4:8 NIV) Come near to God and he will come near to you.
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The Actions: Wash Hands & Purify Heart

• (James 4:8b NIV) Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

• Those Who Want To Come Close To God Need To Lead A Pure Life
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• **To Come Close To God We Must Choose To Have Clean Hands And A Pure Heart**

• *(Psa 24:3-4 NIV)* Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? (4) He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

• *(Mat 5:8 NIV)* Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
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• To Come Near To God Is A Decision To Come Clean

• When We Draw Near To God -- We Separate Ourselves From All Sin

• As God Draws Near To Us -- He Separates Our Sin From Us
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• (1 John 1:5-7 NIV) This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. (6) If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
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• All Sin Will Contaminate Our Spirit And Put Distance Between Us And God

• If We Have Sinned We Confess To Have It Washed Away

• (1 John 1:9 NIV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
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Sin Always Brings Consequences:

• Psa 66:18 (NIV) "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;“

• Isa 59:2 (NIV) "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."
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- Prov 11:21 (NIV) "Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free."

- Sin Leads To Death

- Rom 6:23 (NIV) "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
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• *Sin Is A Condition Of The Heart = One Sin Leads To Another -- And To Another -- etc.*

• *When God Leads You To Make A Break From Your Sin -- Make A Clean Break*

• *Don’t Keep Hanging Out With That Old Sin -- It Will Pull You Down*
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• The Wages Of Sin Are:
  Death – Destruction -- and Bondage
  We Must Avoid It At All Costs

• We Need To Wash Our Hands From It And Purify Our Hearts Of It
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• The Solution For Sin = Turn To God

• When We Wash Our Hands And Purify Our Hearts -- We Prepare Our Lives For A Closer Walk With The Lord
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• We Must Distance Ourselves From The Sins That God Points Out
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How Do We Purify Our Hearts?

• (1 John 1:7 NIV) "the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin"

• **Stop Dabbling In Sin**
  • Wash Your Hands Of It
  • Confess It
  • Receive Forgiveness From It
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• We Serve A God Of Great Deliverance

• The Lord Is
  • My Rock
  • My Fortress
  • My Deliverer

• (2 Cor 1:10 NIV) He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,
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• Draw Near To Him

• He Will Draw Near To You

• He Will Bring You To The Place Of His Deliverance In Your Life And Cleanse Your Hands & Heart From All Sin