THE ATTITUDES OF A CLOSER WALK

How To Come Near To God

September 27, 2017
THE ATTITUDES OF A CLOSER WALK

• James 4:8-9 Is About
  • Submission To God
  • How To Get Close To God

• (James 4:8 NIV) Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

• (James 4:9 NIV) Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.
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• (V. 8) The Actions
  • Wash Your Hands
  • Purify Your Heart

• (V. 9) The Attitudes
  • Grieve
  • Mourn
  • Wail
Grieve, Mourn & Wail

• (James 4:9 NIV) Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

• If We Are Going To Get Closer To God We Cannot Treat Sin Lightly
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Grieve:

• GRIEVE -- (Greek -- talaiporos);
  • to be wretched,
  • to realize one's own misery
  • to be afflicted -- Strong's Concordance

• To Grieve = Disciplined Resistance
  Regarding Worldly Lifestyles And Choices
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Mourn:

- A Humbling Of Ourselves
- To Be Brought Down To Ground Level
- The First Step In A Right Walk With God
- “Godly Sorrow Produces Repentance”

Mourning Is Part Of That Process
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Wail:

• To Cry Aloud

• Many Men And Women Of God Cried & Wept In Scripture
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Grieve, Mourn And Wail =

• Crying Over Sin And It’s Effect On You

• Crying Over Sin And It’s Effect On Others
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We Need To Look At Our World & Our Place In It

• Are We **Grieved** By Sin? Or **Entertained** By It?

• **There Is A Dying Which Needs To Take Place** – If We Are Going To Follow After Christ

• “Be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom 6:11 NRSV).
The Call To Repentance

• (James 4:9 NIV) Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.
• Do we really HATE sin, weep over it?
• Genuine change should shake us to our soul.
• If never moved in heart, probably not converted.
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WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO REPENT?

• We Have Betrayed God With Our Sins
• It’s Necessary For An Ongoing Relationship W/ God
• To Receive God’s Mercy
• For Forgiveness Of Sins & Entrance To The K. Of Heaven
• Refusal To Turn Away From Our Sins Brings God’s Judgment
• It’s The Key To Having New Life From God
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• When We Deal With Our Sin -- It Enacts And Enables Abundant Life -- Which We Appreciate All The More In Seasons Of Repentance.
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• Mourning To Laughter Joy To Gloom = A Change Of Directions
• A Time For True Meaningful Repentance
• What We Used To Laugh About And Derive Joy From Now Causes Us To Mourn And Weep
• “Only after mourning can we move on to joy in the grace God gives us.” Life Application Commentary
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• To Get Close To God --
  Stop Playing Games With The Devil!

• Get Serious About Turning Away From Sin
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- We Need To Resist The Devil In Every Area Of Life
- We Can’t Play with Sin Without Being Burned
- We Can’t Please God While Playing Games w/ Satan
- We Need To Declare War On The Enemy
- We Need To Resist Him
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• The Promise Is Clear— If We Resist Him, Satan Will Flee From Us.

• Through Jesus Christ, We Are Assured Of Victory Over The Devil.

• We Cannot Resist Him In The Flesh, But We Can Resist Him As We Live In The Spirit!
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Why Should We Mourn Over Our Sins?

1. Our Sins Defy God
2. Our Sins Impede The Lord’s Work
3. Our Sins Deprive Us Of Joy

• Opening Up James