

Drawing Nearer To God

Intro:

- A. As we draw to a close of another year, our focus has been on building a better relationship with God in our daily lives, by coming to know WHO and WHAT God is.
 1. I want to encourage everyone present to fully understand that when questioned as to the greatest of commands Jesus said...
 - a. Quote from **Deut 6:5 - Mark 12:30-33; Luke 10:27** - "Love the Lord thy God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength"
 - b. And secondly - "love thy neighbor as thyself" - which must of necessity be the byproduct of our love for God.
 - c. It is the basis of the 10 commandments of Exodus 20 - first 4 relationship with God and next 6 our relationship with each other and self.
 2. Tonight, I want to examine the theme of the song - "Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord" - as well as wrap up the theme of this year with a jumpstart to the theme of next year.
- B. Are you desiring to draw nearer to God? Are You Drawing Closer To Him Each Day?
 1. We must note that - **There Is A Difference Between "Knowing About God" And "Knowing God!"**
 2. Four passages of Scripture:
 - a. **Psalm 145:18**
 - b. **Psalm 73:28**
 - c. **Hebrews 10:19-25**
 - d. **James 4:7-10**

II. The First Two Passages are Principles/Characteristics of what and what is not part of drawing nearer to God-

- A. **Psalms 145:18-20** (NKJV) 18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. 20 The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.
 1. **Notice these key word in the text:**
 - a. He is **NEAR** those who **CALL**
 - b. They **call** in **TRUTH**
 - c. They **FEAR HIM**
 - d. They **LOVE HIM**
 2. These are keys to those **Whom God Will HEAR and SAVE**
- B. **Psalms 73:28** (NKJV) - 28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.
 1. The **73rd Psalm is an eye opening Psalm** - tho this verse (28) is positive, we must note what is not good:
 2. Characteristics of those who do not draw near to God have:
 - a. **Scoffing and wicked speech** - **Psalm 73:8** (NKJV) - 8 They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily.
 - b. **Proud speech** - **Psalm 73:8,9** - 9 They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth.
 - c. **Joining with others who sin** - **Psalm 73:10** - 10 Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full cup are drained by them.
 - d. **A lack of respect** - **Psalm 73:11** - 11 And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?"
 - e. **At ease** - **Psalm 73:12** - 12 Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They

increase in riches.

3. As **opposed to these characteristics those who Are drawing closer to God have:**
- a. **Cleansed heart – Psalm 73:13a** - 13 Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain,
 - b. **Washed hands – Psalm 73:13b** - 13, And washed my hands in innocence.
 - c. **Endure Hardship – Psalm 73:14** - (NKJV) - 14 For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning.
 - d. **Concerned about influence on others – Psalm 73:15** - 15 If I had said, “I will speak thus,” Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children.
 - e. **Understands the end of the wicked – Psalm 73:16-20, 27** - 16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me
(1) **Psalm 73:20** (NKJV) - 20 As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.
(2) **Psalm 73:27** (NKJV) - 27 For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.
 - f. **Penitent – Psalm 73:21,22** (NKJV) - 21 Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. 22 I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.
 - g. **Trust in God – Psalm 73:23,28** - 23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand.
(1) **Psalm 73:28** (NKJV) - 28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works.
 - h. **Follows God’s word, trusting His promises – Psalm 73:24** (NKJV) - 24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.
 - i. **Desires God above all things – Psalm 73:25** - 25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.
 - j. **Doesn’t trust in self – Psalm 73:26** - 26 My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
 - k. **Tells others – Psalm 73:28** - 28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works.
(1) **NOTE: Psalm 73:27** - For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.
- C. As we **examine ourselves do we have these characteristics?**

III. **The last Two Passages deal with - How Do We DRAW NEARER TO GOD?**

- A. **Hebrews 10:19-21** (NKJV) - 19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,
1. **Hebrews 10:22-23** (NKJV) - 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.
 2. **Hebrews 10:24-25** (NKJV) - 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- B. **Knowing we can through Christ – Heb. 10:19-21; Jn 14:6**
1. **John 14:6** (NKJV) - 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
- C. **Need a true heart – Heb. 10:22; Psalm 119:2,10,34,58, 69,80,145; Eph. 6:5**
1. **Psalm 119:2** (NKJV) - 2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!

2. **Psalm 119:10** (NKJV) - 10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
 3. **Psalm 119:34** (NKJV) - 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
 4. **Psalm 119:58** (NKJV) - 58 I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word.
 5. **Psalm 119:69** (NKJV) - 69 The proud have forged a lie against me, But I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart.
 6. **Psalm 119:80** (NKJV) - 80 Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, That I may not be ashamed.
 7. **Psalm 119:145** (NKJV) - 145 I cry out with my whole heart; Hear me, O Lord! I will keep Your statutes.
 8. **Ephesians 6:5** (NKJV) - 5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;
- D. **Need full assurance of faith** – **Heb. 10:22; Heb 6:11; 11:6; James 1:6-9**
1. **Hebrews 6:11** (NKJV) - 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,
 2. **Hebrews 11:6** (NKJV) - 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
 3. **James 1:6-9** (NKJV) - 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. 9 Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation,
- E. **Obey the gospel** – **Heb. 10:22; 1 Pet. 1:22,23; Acts 2:38; Col. 2:11-13; Tit. 3:5; 1 Pet. 3:21**
1. **1 Peter 1:22** (NKJV) - 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,
 - a. **1 Peter 1:23** (NKJV) - 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,
 2. **Acts 2:38** (NKJV) - 38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 3. **Colossians 2:11-13** (NKJV) - 11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,
 4. **Titus 3:5** (NKJV) - 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,
 5. **1 Peter 3:21** (NKJV) - 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- F. **Holding fast to the confession of our hope** . . . – **Heb. 10:23; Heb 3:6,14; Rev 3:11; 2 Pet 1:5-10**
1. **Hebrews 3:6** (NKJV) - 6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.
 2. **Hebrews 3:14** (NKJV) - 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,
 3. **Revelation 3:11** (NKJV) - 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no

- one may take your crown.
4. **2 Peter 1:5-10** (NKJV) - 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;
- G. **Considering one another – provoking to love and good works – Heb. 10:24; 2 Cor. 9:2**
1. **2 Corinthians 9:2** (NKJV) - 2 for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority.
- H. **Attendance and participation – Heb. 10:25; Eph. 4:11-16**
1. **Ephesians 4:11-16** (NKJV) - 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- I. **Exhorting one another – Heb. 10:25; Heb 13:3; Rom. 12:3-13;**
1. **Hebrews 13:3** (NKJV) - 3 Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.
 2. **Romans 12:3-13** (NKJV) - 3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.
- J. **James 4:7-10** (NKJV) - 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
1. **Submit** To God –
 2. **Resist** the devil –
 3. **Cleanse** our hands –
 4. **Purify** our hearts –
 5. **Humble** ourselves and repent -

IV. **In Conclusion:**

- A. Am I being sincere? Is my heart fixed on Him and undivided?
- B. Do I have unwavering confidence in God, His Son Jesus and His word?
- C. Am I coming humbly, obeying God's will - completely surrendering my will to His?
- D. Is there any sin in my life I haven't dealt with?
- E. Remember - **Psalms 145:18-20** (NKJV) - 18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. 20 The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.
- F. Is Your Current Direction Leading You Closer To God? Or Further from Him?