

## Getting Close To GOD | James 4:7-8

*The events in Washington, DC this week have many concerned.*

*Some are concerned about the behavior of our Elected Officials.*

*Others are concerned about the legitimacy of our voting process.*

*Many are disturbed about the breach in security of our Capital Building.*

*It's not hard to see, that evil is lurking all around us, not just in our politics – but in our day to day lives.*

*We all have relationships that have drama & sometimes it feels like we are face to face with evil.*

*The Bible tells us what to do when we encounter evil - & that is - we should be “Getting Close To GOD”.*

**James 4:7 – Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

**James 4:8 – Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.**

**Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.**

*There are many ways that we can “Get Close To GOD”, but we have to first submit ourselves to GOD.*

*We can submit our desires, our hobbies & our free time to GOD, but still not be close to HIM.*

*Our anger, our hurt & grief are a few other things – but GOD wants it all.*

### **1. SURRENDER ALL OF YOU**

✝ **Proverbs 23:26 – My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.**

*You will see clearer what GOD has planned for once you've given HIM your whole heart.*

*You will make better decisions.*

*You will avoid unnecessary mistakes.*

*You will be guided by the HOLY SPIRIT.*



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Another way the Bible tells us to “Get Close To GOD” is to resist the devil AND to:

## 2. FIGHT THE URGE

✝ James 1:12 – Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

*You will see a greater reward if you resist the devil & you’ll be “Getting Close To GOD”.*

*Fight the urge to react in the flesh.*

*Fight the urge to get into arguments.*

*Fight the urge to satisfy the physical man.*

*Then notice in verse 8 – “draw nigh to GOD, and HE will draw nigh to you”.*

*Sometimes - if we are going to “Get Close To GOD” - we will have to:*

## 3. GET AWAY FROM OTHERS

✝ Romans 16:17 – Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

*Some people will get in the way of you “Getting Close To GOD”.*

*Stay away from those who drag you down.*

*Stay away from those who can’t forgive or hold grudges.*

*Stay away from social media.*

*Finally, if we are going to “Get Close To GOD” we will have to have one mindset.*

## 4. STAY CONSISTENT

✝ James 1:8 – A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

*We can’t “Get Close To GOD” when we are inconsistent.*

*Make up your mind to have clean hands.*

*Make up your mind to have a clean heart.*

*Make up your mind to “Get Close To GOD”.*

