

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

*James 4:7-10 (ESV)*

## **Humbly Draw Near**

Thank you, Lord, that I can draw near to you. Thank you, Lord, that you draw near to me. As a humble act of submission, I will make it my regular and frequent practice to draw near to you. **How often will you draw near to me?** I will certainly draw near to you every day. But I am certain that I will need to draw near to you far more frequently than just every day. **Why is that?** I desperately need your help. I certainly need your wisdom. I definitely need your protection. So, I can envision drawing near to you through the moments of my day. **That will be very good.**

**What happens to you when you humbly draw near to me?** When I humbly draw near to you, I am submitting myself to you. I am asking for your help. I am coming to rely on you. I am placing all my trust in you rather than in myself. I am making myself fully available to you. I am withdrawing from the world and entering into your presence. I am listening to your voice. I am focusing my heart and mind and life on you. I am making myself available to receive your instruction and follow your guidance. I am turning away from my own thoughts to seek your thoughts. I am waiting in solitude and silence before you so that you can guard and guide my life. **That is very good.**

**What have I done for you as you have humbly drawn near to me?** When I have humbly drawn near to you, you have drawn near to me. You have filled me with your peace. You have removed my heart and mind and life from the storm of evil thoughts, opinions, values and circumstances that have swirled around me, that have sought to entrap me. You have caused the devil to flee from me. You have reordered and reprioritized my perspective. You have refocused my heart and mind and life on you. You have helped me once again to place all my hope and trust on you. You have set my feet back on a firm foundation. You have made me able to see, once again, how to live and walk and move forward with you on the path of life. **Yes, I have done all these things for you. Will you keep on submitting yourself to me by drawing near to me? Will you make humbly drawing near to me your ongoing moment by moment strategy to resist evil in all its forms?** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

*Lord, I will draw near to you. I know you will draw near to me. Help me to resist the devil so he will flee from me. Guard my heart and mind and life from his attacks. Help me to think your thoughts, speak your words and do your deeds as I follow and serve you. Amen*

**Becoming Like Christ** *Come Near To God*

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

NIV

James 4:7-10

**Becoming Like Christ** *Come Close To God*

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

NLT

James 4:7-10

**Becoming Like Christ** *Draw Near To God*

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

NRSV

James 4:7-10

**Becoming Like Christ** *Come Close To God*

So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you. Come close to God and He will come close to you. [Recognize that you are] sinners, get your soiled hands clean; [realize that you have been disloyal] wavering individuals with divided interests, and purify your hearts [of your spiritual adultery]. [As you draw near to God] be deeply penitent and grieve, even weep [over your disloyalty]. Let your laughter be turned to grief and your mirth to dejection and heartfelt shame [for your sins]. Humble yourselves [feeling very insignificant] in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you [He will lift you up and make your lives significant].

AMP

James 4:7-10

**Becoming Like Christ** *Draw Near To God*

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

NASB

James 4:7-10

**Becoming Like Christ** *Draw Near To God*

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

ESV

James 4:7-10

**Becoming Like Christ** *Draw Near To God*

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

NKJV

James 4:7-10

**Becoming Like Christ** *Say A Quiet Yes To God*

So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.

MSG

James 4:7-10

**Becoming Like Christ** *Draw Close To God*

So give yourselves humbly to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. And when you draw close to God, God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and let your hearts be filled with God alone to make them pure and true to him. Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. Let there be sorrow and sincere grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Then when you realize your worthlessness before the Lord, he will lift you up, encourage and help you.

TLB

James 4:7-10

**Becoming Like Christ** *Come Near To God*

So give yourselves completely to God. Stand against the devil, and the devil will run from you. Come near to God, and God will come near to you. You sinners, clean sin out of your lives. You who are trying to follow God and the world at the same time, make your thinking pure. Be sad, cry, and weep! Change your laughter into crying and your joy into sadness. Don't be too proud in the Lord's presence, and he will make you great.

NCV

James 4:7-10

# Draw Near To God

Year \_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

**Becoming Like Christ** – James 4:7-10

**In Context:** *Read James 4*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:7-10 (ESV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Submit yourselves | therefore | to God. | Resist the devil, | and he | will flee | from you. | Draw near | to God, | and he | will draw near | to you. | Cleanse your hands, | you sinners, | and purify | your hearts, | you double-minded. | Be wretched | and mourn | and weep. | Let your laughter | be turned | to mourning | and | your joy | to gloom. | Humble yourselves | before the Lord, | and he | will exalt you. James 4:7-10 (ESV)

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I will draw near to you. I know you will draw near to me. Help me to resist the devil so he will flee from me. Guard my heart and mind and life from his attacks. Help me to think your thoughts, speak your words and do your deeds as I follow and serve you. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you humbly drawn near to God and submitted your entire being to Him?

**How are you making it your daily practice to submit yourself to God by humbly drawing near to Him?**

How has God drawn near to you as you have drawn near to Him?

How has submitting yourself to God and humbly drawing near to Him withdrawn you from tempting circumstances?

**Why is submitting yourself to God and drawing near to Him your most effective strategy to resist evil?**

Why is submitting yourself to God and drawing near to Him an act of humility?

**How has God changed your thoughts, words and actions as you have humbly drawn near to Him?**

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Humbly submit yourself to God by drawing near to Him, resist the devil and he will flee from you.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that as you humbly submit yourself to God by drawing near to Him, the devil and his evil will flee from you.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you have been humbly drawing near to God and resisting the devil.

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**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you humbly draw near to God and resist the devil so he will flee from you.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will humbly draw near to you and resist the devil so he will flee from me.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how can I humbly draw near to you and resist the devil today?*

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