

James 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Analysis

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Draw near (engisate, ἐγγίσατε) to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse hands, you sinners, and purify hearts, you double-minded. Repentance involves external actions and internal motives.

Reformed spirituality blends priestly imagery with gospel access: through Christ we approach God, yet must cleanse through confession and obedience.

Historical Context

Jewish readers recalled ceremonial washings; James applies them spiritually. Double-mindedness (cf. 1:8) plagued believers trying to court both God and the world. He calls for decisive repentance.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What sins require cleansing as you draw near to God?
2. How can you move from double-mindedness to single-hearted devotion?
3. What spiritual disciplines help you experience God's nearness?

Interlinear Text

έγγιεῖ	τῷ	θεῷ	καὶ	έγγιεῖ	ὑμῖν	καθαρίσατε	χεῖρας
Draw nigh	G3588	to God	and	Draw nigh	to you	Cleanse	your hands
G1448		G2316	G2532	G1448	G5213	G2511	G5495
ἀμαρτωλοί	καὶ	ἀγνίσατε	καρδίας	δίψυχοι			
ye sinners	and	purify	your hearts	ye double minded			
G268	G2532	G48	G2588	G1374			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 145:18 (Parallel theme): The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

Hebrews 10:22 (Parallel theme): 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.

Malachi 3:7 (Parallel theme): Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

Zechariah 1:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.

2 Chronicles 15:2 (Parallel theme): And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

1 John 3:3 (Parallel theme): And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Jeremiah 4:14 (Parallel theme): O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

Psalms 51:10 (References God): Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Hebrews 7:19 (References God): For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Ezekiel 18:31 (Sin): Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

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