

James 4:8~ Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you indecisive¹ ones.

Footnote: Literally, two-souled

1· James continues this encouragement by telling his anointed Christian brothers to draw close to Yehowah God. They can do this by knowing his will accurately through study of the Bible, and by praying earnestly through the Holy Spirit for help, and working with it, to grow and progress in a spiritual way so as to be more like their glorious God.

[Question] What fine encouragement does James now give to his anointed Christian brothers?

[Question] How can they thus draw close to Yehowah God spiritually?

2· Yehowah, like each of us, is drawn to other people who are like him, and who manifest his finest qualities in their lives. He loves spiritual people, those who think about their lives and apply scriptural principles to them daily.

[Question] Who is Yehowah God naturally drawn to?

[Question] Whom does he especially love?

3· He promises to draw close to us, if we draw close to him, and we do this by imitation of his wonderful qualities. Therefore James' further counsel to have clean hands and pure hearts. This refers to our fine works, our clean hands, and doing things for the right reasons, or with a pure heart. We must not be unsteady or indecisive in our worship of Yehowah God, the rock of our spiritual lives, but like him, we must be firm for righteousness.

[Question] What wonderful promise has Yehowah God made to his servants?

[Question] How must we act to gain this glorious promise?

[Question] How must we exercise these fine qualities?

4· I will wipe out your transgressions just as with a cloud, and your sins just as with a cloud mass. Do return to me, for I will repurchase you. (Isaiah 44:22)

[Question] What can Yehowah God do to all of our sins before him?

- 5· Search for Yehowah, you people, while he may be found. Call to him while he proves to be near. (**Isaiah 55:6**)

[Question] What encouragement does the prophet Isaiah give to God's people?

- 6· Wash yourselves. Make yourselves clean. Remove the badness of your dealings from in front of my eyes. Cease to do bad. (**Isaiah 1:16**)

[Question] What does Yehowah God want this people to do regarding their uncleanness before him?

- 7· And everyone who has this hope set upon him purifies himself, just as that one is pure. (**1 John 3:3**)

[Question] What does every anointed Christian who has the hope set before him, do within himself to attain to it?

- 8· He is an **indecisive** man, unsteady in all his ways. (**James 1:8**)

[Question] Why will an indecisive man get nothing from Yehowah God, in the way of a blessing?

- 9· And you, Solomon my son, know the **God** of your father and serve him with a complete heart and with a delightful soul. For all **hearts** Yehowah is searching, and every inclination of the thoughts he is discerning. If you search for him, he **will** let himself be found by you, but if you leave him, he **will** cast you off forever. (**1 Chronicles 28:9**)

[Question] What was young Solomon told about the degree of interest Yehowah God shows in all his people?

- 10· Consequently he went out before Asa and said to him; Hear me, O Asa and all Judah and Benjamin! Yehowah is with you as long as you prove to be with him, and if you search for him, he **will** let himself be found by you, but if you leave him he **will** leave you. (**2 Chronicles 15:2**)

[Question] How long will Yehowah God prove to be with us?

[Question] What however will he do, if we leave him or are wishy-washy?

- 11· For when you return to Yehowah, your brothers and your

sons **will** be objects of mercy before those holding them captive, and be allowed to return to this land, for Yehowah your **God** is gracious and merciful, and he **will** not turn away the face from you, if you return to him. (**2 Chronicles 30:9**)

[Question] How will Yehowah God surely respond to the returning to him of his people in sincerity?

12· **God** is indeed good to Israel, to those clean in heart. (**Psalms 73:1**)

[Question] How does Yehowah God act toward people clean in heart?

13· But as for me, the drawing near to **God** is good for me. In the Sovereign Lord Yehowah I have placed my refuge, to declare all your works. (**Psalms 73:28**)

[Question] How did the Psalmist feel about his drawing near to his God?

14· Yehowah is near to all those calling upon him, to all those who call upon him in trueness. (**Psalms 145:18**)

[Question] Who is Yehowah God near to?

15· Come, now, you people, and let us set matters straight between us, says Yehowah. Though the sins of you people should prove to be as scarlet, they **will** be made white just like snow. Though they should be red like crimson cloth, they **will** become even like wool. (**Isaiah 1:18**)

[Question] What does Yehowah God promise to do to the sins of his people, if they show a willingness to set things straight between themselves and their God?

16· Incline your ear and come to me. Listen, and your soul **will** keep alive, and I shall readily conclude with you people an indefinitely lasting covenant respecting the loving-kindnesses to David that are faithful. (**Isaiah 55:3**)

[Question] What does Yehowah God promise to do for those who incline their ear to him, and listen to his counsel?

17· Therefore this is what Yehowah has said. If you **will** come back, then I shall bring you back. Before me you **will** stand. And if you **will** bring forth what is precious from

valueless things, you **will** become like my own mouth. They themselves **will** come back to you, but you yourself **will** not come back to them. (**Jeremiah 15:19**)

[Question] How does Yehowah feel if his people bring forth precious spiritual things, from what was formerly useless?

18· Do let us search out our ways and explore them, and do let us return clear to Yehowah. (**Lamentations 3:40**)

[Question] What did Jeremiah write, about returning to Yehowah God after Jerusalem's fall?

19· Outside are the dogs and those who practice spiritism and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolaters and everyone liking and carrying on a lie. (**Revelation 22:15**)

[Question] Will anyone practicing wickedness gain entry into the holy city?

20· Then Yehowah said to me; Son of man, set your heart and see with your eyes, and with your ears hear all that I am speaking with you regarding all the statutes of the house of Yehowah and regarding all its Laws, and you must set your heart upon the entryway of the House with all the exits of the sanctuary. (**Ezekiel 44:5**)

[Question] What was the prophet Ezekiel told to set his heart upon, so as to do them?

21· From the days of your forefathers you have turned aside from my regulations and have not kept them. Return to me, and I **will** return to you, Yehowah of armies has said. And you have said; In what way shall we return? (**Malachi 3:7**)

[Question] Through Malachi, what did Yehowah God tell his people to return to?