

# DRAW NIGH TO GOD

## JAMES 4:1-7

Text: James 4:8

### **James 4:8**

<sup>8</sup> Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

Introduction:

We have experienced this week what I would call a touch of revival.

Every Christian comes to points in their Christian lives where there is a need for revival in their heart.

This nation is in desperate need of revival.

### **Psalm 85:6**

<sup>6</sup> Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Vance Havner once said, "Revival is the church falling in love with Jesus all over again."

Illustration:

I read a story the other day of a little boy who got up at 8:00 and was covered from head to toe in dirt. His

mom said, “How did you get so dirty so early in the morning?” He said, “Oh that’s easy. I went to bed that way!”

We have in our text today the secret of revival. Let’s consider what the Lord wants to teach us today regarding this.

Notice

## **1. THE CONFLICTS WITH REVIVAL (vs. 1-3)**

### **James 4:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? <sup>2</sup> Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. <sup>3</sup> Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

Those who trust Christ receive the Holy Spirit within and have a new nature. Still, they will battle these enemies.

### A. Conflict with Strife (vs. 1-2)

### **Psalm 133:1**

<sup>1</sup> Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Note – “Fightings among you” indicates that these combative relationships were between members of the churches.

The reason for this is that those involved in strife are not walking in the Spirit.

**James 4:5**

<sup>5</sup> Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

**Galatians 5:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. <sup>18</sup> But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

**B. Conflict with Selfishness (vs.2)**

**James 4:2**

<sup>2</sup> Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Note:

This selfishness is described in the words “lust” and “desire.”

Note:

- The Process of Selfishness (vs. 2)

“Marital conflicts, family conflicts, job conflicts, national conflicts – all these are the result of unsatisfied personal lust and envying.”

- The Product of Selfishness

We are never satisfied. Ye lust – and have not – ye kill – ye desire to have – you cannot obtain – ye fight and war – yet ye have not – because ye ask not. Our lusts are never satisfied, they always want more.

We can kill relationships

We can kill opportunities to serve others.

We can kill the Lord’s work. We become complacent to spiritual things because our focus is on feeding our fleshly desires. The two are contrary – the flesh and the spirit.

Note:

Sadly many Christians will try to draw others to their own ineffective lifestyle.

**2 Peter 2:17-21**

<sup>17</sup> These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. <sup>18</sup> For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. <sup>19</sup> While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of

corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. <sup>20</sup> For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. <sup>21</sup> For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

Illustration:

A lady once asked Billy Sunday, “Why do you keep having revivals when they don’t last?” He asked her, “Why do you keep taking baths?”

## **2. THE COMPETITION FOR REVIVAL (VS. 3-5)**

### **James 4:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts. <sup>4</sup> Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

#### **A. Misplaced Prayer**

Note:

Asking amiss – verse 3

Note:

“amiss” = miserable, bad or evil, thinking; asking with a wrong motive.

Note:

They don't stop to pray about their desires; and, when they do pray, they pray selfishly that they might enlarge their pleasures, not glorify God.

### **1 John 2:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

## **B. Misplaced Values**

James uses the terms “adulterers” and “adulteresses” in a symbolic way.

In the Old Testament, because God was in a binding covenant relationship with Israel, similar to marriage, when Israel fell into idolatry, God referred to it as adultery. This would be spiritual unfaithfulness on Israel's part when they went after idols.

With the church and Jesus Christ, there is a marital relationship used symbolically to show the separated

position we have in Jesus Christ who purchased His bride, the church through His shed blood.

### **1 Peter 1:18-19**

<sup>18</sup>Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup>But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Illustration:

The Jewish betrothal period – This became a legally binding contract of marriage. The bridegroom spent the time in that separation building a room off of his father’s house for his bride. When the groom’s father felt it was ready, he then would give his son permission to go fetch his bride.

In 1 Peter 1:18-20 we see the purchasing of the bride through the shed blood of Jesus on Calvary.

Note:

Right now, the church is in the betrothal period. Jesus is in heaven preparing a place for each of us (John 14:1-3). We are here on earth, separating ourselves unto Christ and from the world.

### **2 Corinthians 11:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>Would to God ye could bear with me a little in *my* folly: and indeed bear with me. <sup>2</sup>For I am jealous over you with godly

jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. <sup>3</sup> But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Note:

While we are apart from Christ, the world may woo us away from Christ, and we commit spiritual adultery.

### **Colossians 2:8**

<sup>8</sup> Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

## C. Misplaced Friendships (vs. 4)

### **James 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

If we are still friendly with the world then we are enemies of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## **3. THE COMMENCEMENT OF REVIVAL (VS. 6-7)**

### **James 4:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

## A. Revival begins with a contrite heart. – verse 6

When the believer humbles himself before the Lord, then He will work in us and through us. He will extend His grace to us.

### **Psalm 51:10**

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

### **James 4:10**

<sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

## B. Revival develops a conformed heart (vs. 7)

- A humble heart submits to God's leading.

It takes humility to submit. Unless we are willing to humble ourselves under the Lord, we will not be submissive.

- A humble heart resists the Devil

“Resist” = to set one's self against, to withstand, resist, oppose, to set against.

Once we are in submission to God, we are under a higher authority and power than Satan or any of his demons.

Close:

Someone once said, “Revival is the people of God living in the power of an ungrieved, unquenched Spirit.”

May we allow God to bring us to the place that He can bring about the revival that we so need today.