

Just A Closer Walk with Thee – Putting First Things First

Introduction: James said, “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you” (James 4:8). This passage emphasizes a close walk with God. I know all of us would like to have a “closer walk with God.” How can we do this? We do this by putting first things first. **You can be closer to God by . . .**

- I. **Putting prayer first (Luke 18:1; Colossians 4:2; I Thessalonians 5:17; Acts 10:2). Daniel is the perfect example (Daniel 6:10).**
 - A. Prayer is the greatest privilege we possess as Christians (Matthew 6:9).
 - B. Have we become so busy that we have neglected our prayer life and are not close to God because of it?
 - C. Make time to pray – Prayer will keep you close to God.

- II. **Putting Bible study first (Acts 17:11; II Peter 3:18; Psalm 119:11, 40, 47, 59, 97, 105, 127, 131, 161, 165).**
 - A. In Bible study we learn of God’s great love for us and this causes us to desire to be close to Him (I John 4:19).
 - B. A closer walk with God demonstrates how thankful we are for His love and forgiveness (John 14:15; I John 5:3).
 - C. Please do not neglect Bible study – your soul will starve and you will drift away from God.

- III. **Putting worship first (Psalm 29:2; 95:6; 122:1; John 4:23, 24).**
 - A. As we pour out our hearts to God in adoration and praise we obviously draw closer to Him.
 - B. All of us will leave here tonight closer to God. What about those who stayed at home or chose to do something else?
 - C. Forsaking of worship demonstrates that we are not trying to grow closer to God (Hebrews 10:25). Think what a sincere partaking of the Lords’s supper does for our lives each week!

- IV. **Putting a daily walk with God first (Luke 9:23). Noah is the perfect example (Genesis 6:9).**
 - A. As Christians we walk:
 1. “In newness of life” (Romans 6:4).
 2. “Not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Romans 8:1).
 3. “In good works” (Ephesians 2:10).
 4. “Worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called” (Ephesians 4:1).
 5. “In love” (Ephesians 5:2).
 6. “Circumspectly” (Ephesians 5:15).
 7. “Worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing (Colossians 1:10).
 8. “In the light” (I John 1:7).
 9. “After His commandments” (II John 6).
 10. “In truth” (III John 4).
 - B. Practicing Christianity daily demonstrates a close walk with God.
 - C. We should walk daily as Jesus walked (I John 2:6).

Conclusion: Tonight, can you honestly say that you are close to God and the desire of your life is to walk closer with Him each day? May these words describe our hearts, “Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea. Daily walking close to thee. Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.”

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