

Sermon Notes for January 31, 2021

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your **hands**, you sinners; and purify your **hearts**, you double **minded**.

James speaks to us as fellow priests

Exodus 19:6, Isaiah 61:6, 1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6

If we draw close to God, God will draw close to us.

To draw indicate compulsion or attraction.

The Holy Spirit is compelling us to himself.

The idea of cleansing one's self harkens back to the ceremonial cleaning required of Aaron and his sons before they approached God in the tabernacle.

Leviticus 8:6

Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water.

Leviticus 8:10 - 12

Moses anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it with oil.

And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him, to consecrate him.

Leviticus 8:30

Then Moses took some of the anointing **oil** and some of the **blood** which was on the altar, and sprinkled it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him: and he consecrated Aaron, his garments, his sons, and the garments of his sons with him.

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

With your holy imagination imagine Jesus pouring the Holy Spirit all over you!

The Book of James challenges all believers to live **holy** lives. That is: to be separated unto God.

Professional athletes subject their bodies to torture and even starvation in order to attain a corruptible crown.

Actors make themselves what ever weight they need to be in order to play their roles.

Successful **business people** and **students** all sacrifice time and pleasure to attain temporal success.

Cleansing Process:

1. **Praise** (focusing on God's goodness) helps us cleanse ourselves.
2. **Gratitude** Thanking the LORD helps me to recognize Him.
3. **Repentance** helps me experience forgiveness.
4. **Submission** places me in His will.

When we submit to God we have become as close to Him as possible.

We must continue to submit God and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. Abide in Him and He abides in us.

- Jesus died for our sin, not so that we could go on sinning, but His death set us free so that we have the power and freedom to choose not to sin.
- We are to live in holiness because we have been made holy by grace through faith in Jesus.
- Live in the joy and freedom of holiness.

Sin separates us from God, submission to God brings us into His presence.