

ASH + WEDNESDAY

FAST FOCUS | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

Come Near to God

“Come near to God and He will come near to you.” ~ James 4:8 (NIV)

All of us have friends, family members or people we appreciate and admire that we delight in spending time with, especially when it comes at their invitation. The request to share space or be in their company fills us with anticipation and excitement, and we do not hesitate to clear our calendar to accept their invitation.

One of the greatest invitations extended to humanity is found in the book of James 4:8, “Come near to God and He will come near to you.” Have you considered that the God of the universe, the Creator of all things, the earth and all its inhabitants not only requests our presence but desires to know us intimately? Exodus 34:14 (New Living Translation) tells us that God’s unwavering desire is to enjoy a passionate relationship with us.

Despite God’s longing and invitation to be near us, many of us choose to run from God rather than to God. Our first inclination is to run and hide because of guilt, shame, past mistakes and indiscretions. But James, the brother of Jesus, shares an important truth that is foundational to living in fellowship with God. That truth is that the door of God’s heart is always open to us. God’s love is unfailing and unconditional. God’s presence is always available to us, and God is always accessible. Therefore, we can draw near to God, not because of our merit or worthiness but with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings (Hebrew 10:22a).

God loves us and wants a relationship with us. God wants to walk with us and talk with us and enjoy fellowship with us. Thanks be to God that because of the blood of Jesus, we can draw near to God with our hearts, not with our heads. Why not accept God’s invitation today?

REFLECT: What’s keeping you from drawing near to God? Write the reasons in the space below.

REMEMBER: We don’t have to run AWAY from God. We can run TO God.

REQUEST: Loving God, thank you that because of Jesus we can draw near to you. Remove the guilt and shame that keeps us running away from you rather than running to you. We are forever grateful for the forgiveness of our sins and that you are waiting to receive us with open arms. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Submitted by: Pastor Gina M. Stewart

