

Closer to God Series

My Journey

01/31/10

Introduction:

1. We have considered, Who is God, Why God, Does God Know Me?, Casting My Care on Him, Investigating His Word, Active Prayer, The Freedom of Being Close to God.
2. Let's begin our journey together right now. Some will fold their arms and say, "No." Others will say, "You're right, we'll get started right away. I just need to get this "thing" done."
3. Getting closer to God is something we all struggle with at times. Some days are easier than others to die to self and give all to God.

Text:

Hebrews 10:22-25

Thesis:

James 4:8

Discussion:

I) His Ways are Not Our Ways

- a) Isaiah 55:8
- b) More of God means less of you or I. HERE IS THE CHALLENGE
- c) Problems will stress our ability to yield to God's ways.
 - 1) Hebrews 11:6
 - 2) Adversity produces advancement, strength comes from struggle, muscle comes from resistance and trouble can drive us to God.
 - 3) Human reasoning attacks our faith.
- d) Where am I?
 - 1) Matthew 16:24
 - 2) Am I really on the journey or am I just looking down the path at the cross roads?
 - 3) Am I really on the journey or am I walking looking at my feet?
- e) Of course I am on the journey because I do all the right things.
 - 1) 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
 - (i) Wouldn't it be a waste?
 - (ii) Are my motives fallow ground?
 - 2) Matthew 19:16-22
 - (i) For some reason we focus on the money or wealth in this situation.
 - (ii) What is the thing that is holding you back from God?
 - 3) Luke 6:46

II) His Ways lead us on a Journey of Self Discovery

- a) Keep a food log and discover what you are really eating, keep a soul log and discover what you are really growing toward.
- b) Keeping a soul log will cause us to look on the fallow ground in our lives.
 - 1) Jeremiah 4:3
 - (i) The Lord is speaking about the fallow ground and thorns in our hearts.
 - (ii) This is the place that needs plowing and weeding.
 - 2) Hosea 10:12
- c) Still having trouble taking that first step?
 - 1) Do you have an authority problem?
 - (i) James 2:19
 - (a) Do we fear him like the demons who tremble at His power?
 - (b) Do we fear him or respect Him with awe and a desire to please?
 - (ii) Hebrews 13:17
 - (iii) Isaiah 55:6-7
 - (iv) Proverbs 14:12

III) Seven Steps to Start the Journey

- a) Sing to God a new song.
 - 1) Psalms 40:3
 - 2) The hardest time to draw close to God is first thing in the morning.
 - 3) Begin your day by singing a new song to God for uplifting before the world has an opportunity to spoil your mood.
- b) Start the day by saying good morning to God.

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- 1) Psalms 5:3
 - 2) Plan to look up in the morning to God in prayer.
 - 3) As you pray your requests wait expectantly for His answer.
 - 4) Realizing that God wants to bless you will keep you focused as you wait.
- c) Quote Scripture
- 1) Psalms 119:11
 - (i) Putting God's Word in your heart will thwart temptation.
 - (ii) Matthew 4 – Jesus said, "It is written"
 - 2) Psalms 51:10
 - (i) Renew the day with a cleansing of the heart.
 - (ii) Ask forgiveness for the thing that stands between you and God.
- d) Observe Nature
- 1) Psalms 95:4-5
 - 2) Take a quiet walk and notice the wonders of God's work.
- e) Meditate
- 1) Psalms 1
 - (i) Ask this question, "What does God really want me to do?"
 - (ii) Consider my talents and pray.
 - 2) Psalms 77:12
 - (i) Consider all of His work.
 - (ii) Talk about His work with others.
- f) Perform Random Acts of Kindness
- 1) Matthew 7:12 (Golden Rule)
 - (i) Do good unto others first.
 - (ii) Galatians 6:10
 - 2) Matthew 25:33-40
- g) Worship at Every Opportunity
- 1) Psalms 22:3 (God lives in the praises of His people)
 - (i) Psalms 95:6
 - (ii) We have a great honor to bow down before Our Maker together.
 - 2) Hebrews 10:25
 - (i) Entering into God's house draws us closer to Him.
 - (ii) We invite His presence when we gather in unity (Matthew 18:20).
 - (a) This passage follows a discourse on dealing with the difficult.
 - (b) Jesus did not restrict His presence to the difficult (Matthew 18:19).

Conclusion

1. Seven steps beginning tomorrow will bring you back here Wednesday and next Sunday.
2. But what about today? How do I draw myself closer that I may be able to use these seven steps for the days ahead?
3. Complete obedience for the forgiveness of sin.