

HE'S CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

Hebrews 10:19-25

Drawing near to God is not moving from one place to another. It is a directing of the heart into the presence of God who is as distant as the holy of holies in heaven, and yet as near as the door of faith. He is commanding us to come. To approach him. To draw near to him.

John Piper

Drawing near ... (Heb 10:19-22; James 4:8)

Drawing near to God involves heart and soul; redemption and restoration

The closer you get to God, the closer he gets to you

Holding tight ... (Heb 10:23)

We hold poorly if we don't hold at all

We hold poorly if we hold falsely

We hold poorly if we hold too loosely

Spurring on ... (Heb 10:24-25; Acts 2:42-47)

Considering one another implies intentionality

Way to go! - Encouragement

Have you considered? - Suggestion

Have you followed through? - Reminder

What are you thinking? - Challenge

What is your take-away from today's study? In a few words jot down how God has spoken to you today.

Small Group Homework - Week of April 10, 2016

This week Jim said that God is much closer than we think. Drawing near to God is seen as a long, laborious project that may take years to achieve, and then after long searching. Think back in your own life. Is there an event, a stage of life, or a particular situation especially sensed God's presence? If so, briefly describe that situation.

1. Read James 4:7-10 and Matthew 6:33. What do you see as things that directly contribute to closeness to God from James 4:7?

What does the term "double-minded" mean and how does it inhibit closeness to God? How does Matthew 6:33 fit in?

2. Read Heb 10:23; 2 Thess 2:15; Psa 119:31. Think hard; do these commands call us to a position of offense, or of defense? Give a reason for your answer.

Think back in a time in your life, or even a situation right now that is calling you to take hold on unswervingly. Take a moment to describe it and explain why this position of defense so important. Read James 4:7 for additional input.

3. Read Acts 2:42-47. Look for the big picture. How would this kind of church, active in big church (the temple courts) and in the little church (meeting in their homes) stimulate people to love and good works?

How does this encourage drawing near to God?

4. List a couple of ways you can develop the "consider one another" mentality and how it would change your approach to church.

Prayer Requests