

## **FINDING GOD**

James 4:8 ... “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...”

Some people spend years searching for something meaningful in life and never find it. Some look for purpose in money, only to find that money does not generate happiness. Some look for it in other people, only to be disappointed when the “ideal” friend or spouse turns out to be flawed. Others look for purpose and meaning in adventure, or travel, or careers. Still others hope to find satisfaction in drugs, alcohol or crime.

God did not design you to find joy, satisfaction and success in worldly pursuits. You may earn brief moments of satisfaction from what the world has to offer, but they will not linger or occur often. If you live 65 years you may be forced to admit on your death bed that your pursuit of happiness by playing according to the rules of the world, leave you feeling empty and played-out, wishing you had made better decisions and wiser choices.

The phrase “draw near,” in today’s verse, is used in the context of approaching someone who is already in the same room with you; as close as your extended hand. It does not mean traveling across town or even walking to the nearest church. It is as simple as stepping into the presence of Christ who has been pursuing you since you were born. Today’s verse is a promise. If you will step into the presence of Christ, he will step into your space, embrace you, hear your confession of sin, and accept you as a forever member of his family.

I have heard Christians give testimonies about what their lives were like before they “found Jesus.” I have heard others say they looked for God and found him. But God is not to be found. He has been near to you all your life, just waiting for you to say “yes” to him.

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