1 – **Drawing Near To God**  **James 4:1-10**

2 - **Why James Is Written?**

* ***“To the 12 tribes who are dispersed abroad.”* (1:1; cf., 1 Peter 1:1)
Written to *“brethren”* (15 times)**
* **Purpose: *“… so that you may be perfect and complete lacking in nothing.”* (1:4)**
* **“*Perfect*” - speaking of being complete, mature or full-grown.**

3 – **James Chapter 4**

* Begins with the conflict of wanting to serve God yet living as a *“****friend of the world****”.*(4:4; John 17:13ff)
* James refers to such a Christian as an “***adulteress***” who is engaged in “**hostility**” with God. (4:4; 1 John 2:15)
* James states that the solution to such spiritual infidelity is ***“draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”*** (4:8)

4 – **How Do We Draw Near To God?**

5 – **Recognize Our Responsibility**

* If you’re not as close to God as you use to be, rest assured, it’s not God who moved. (Hebrews 2:1)
* If we have drawn close, we must draw yet closer. (1 Thessalonians 4:1)
* *“****Until Christ is formed in you****”.* (Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:13)
* We must see our ***“need”***! (Revelation 3:17; cf., Matthew 9:12-13; Psalms 70:4-5)
* Willing to **diligently seek God**. (2 Chronicles 15:2; Jeremiah 29:13)

6 – **Develop A Heart Of Humility & Submission**

* We can’t draw closer with a proud heart! Reconciliation begins with humility.
* “***God*** *is opposed to the proud, but* ***gives grace to the humble****.* ***Submit therefore to God****. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you…****Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you***” (**James 4:6-10**).
* **Pride destroys relationships**. (Romans 12:3, 16)
* **God is opposed to the proud**! (1 Peter 5:5-6)

7 - **Overcome Temptation**

* Choose to say “no” to Satan – **he can be resisted**.
* James wrote, “***resist the devil*** *and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7).
	+ We cannot continue to give way to sin and walk in darkness and ever hope to draw near to Him.
* **We can’t be ignorant**! (2 Cor. 2:11; 1 Peter 5:8)
* “***Fight the good fight***”! (1 Timothy 6:12)
* Denying Satan is to **deny self**! (Matthew 16:24-25)

8 - **Repentance Is Demanded**

* James 4:8-9, *“****Draw near to God and He will draw near to you****.* ***Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded****. Be* ***miserable*** *and* ***mourn*** *and* ***weep****; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom.”*
* Sin is what **separates man from God.** (Isaiah 59:1-2)
* Need for **purity and holiness**. (1 John 3:3; 2 Cor. 7:1)

9 - **Loving Not The World**

* James 4:4, *“…* ***friendship with the world is hostility toward God****… a* ***friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God****.”*
* “***Do not love the world*** *nor* ***the things in the world****. If anyone loves the world,* ***the love of the Father is not in Him***.” (1 John 2:15; cf., Luke 18:22-23; 2 Tim. 4:10)
* **Spiritually transformed**. (Romans 12:1-2)

10 - **Feeding On God’s Word**

* James 4:4, *“****Submit therefore to God****...”* How so?
* Submission to His revealed will without arguing and complaining. (James 1:19-21)
* “***Nourished on the words of the faith***…”
(1 Timothy 4:6; John 6:68)

11 - **Redeeming The Time…**

* ***Take time to be holy****! (Ephesians 5:15-17)*
* ***Making the most of our opportunities****.
(Colossians 4:5-6)*

12 - **Never Quitting…**

* *“Run with endurance…”* (Hebrews 12:1-2)
* *“Do not throw away your confidence…”* (Hebrews 10:32-36)
* Keep pressing on! (Philippians 3:12-14)
* We’re one day closer! (Romans 13:11)

13 - **… Until We’re With God Forever**

* *“…So we shall* ***always be with the Lord****.”*(1 Thessalonians 4:17)
* Where we will “***cast our crowns before the Lord***”.
(Revelation 4:10)
* We will reign with Him forever! (Revelation 22:5)