



GUARDING OUR HEARTS THROUGH DRAWING NEAR

James 4:4a-10 *“Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: ‘He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us’? But He gives a greater grace Therefore it says, ‘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. 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. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.”*

Proverbs 4:23 *“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”*

- The question is always about our own individual ability to draw near to God.
- Every day we need a fresh correction with our hearts by connecting with the heart of God.
- Decisions without daily intimacy with God are very dangerous and reckless.
- Only thinking that God can speak to you in certain ways is limiting God.
- He holds countless ways to communicate His divine nature, goodness, and mysteries daily to you, but it requires something: For you to become partakers of abundance!

2 Peter 1:3-4 *“Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”*

- We must draw near and take His word inside us with the fire of His presence!

Hebrews 4:12 *“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*

Jeremiah 23:29 *“Is not My word like fire?” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?”*

- To continue without this spiritual connection is like disconnecting your battery from your car and thinking it is going to start. “My lights are getting dim! I need a charge. Can you give me a jump?”
- It is so important for you and for me to stay connected!
- Fellowship is awesome, but fellowship is futile if our fellowship is without wellsprings of living water flowing through our countenance!
- All of these are a part of that spiritual connection:
 1. Our words
 2. Our actions
 3. Our struggles
 4. Our victories
 5. Our reasoning
 6. Our birthing
 7. Our serving
 8. Our calling
- Identity and destiny is found on the map of intimacy (GPS – Roadmap)
- I just want to make it simple and clear – it is essential! It’s essential that we set aside time within our busy schedules to wait upon the Lord!

Isaiah 40:30-31 *“Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”*

- To maintain our spiritual walks with God, we must set apart a specific time and a place to wait upon the Lord.
- Waiting in His presence gives us an ability to function and understand spiritual things.
- Holding ourselves in His presence is very significant to allow His life and power to flow back into our being.

- Your times with God – Is there distance growing between these times with God? Or are they drawing closer and increasing, with shorter times between meetings?

Matthew 6:6 *“But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”*

- Here are a few things waiting on the Lord will produce in your life:
 1. It will impart divine strength, which replaces our human weakness
 2. This will increase our love for the Lord Himself.
 3. Will produce an anointing that will quicken our understanding and enable us to respond to spiritual things.
- This waiting time is with focus and undivided attention.

1 Corinthians 15:44 *“It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”*

- Natural body or spiritual body – either one or the other will dominate.
 1. Whichever one increases will dominate.
 2. We have a choice to feed or nurture one or the other.
 3. I don't say this lightly – the battle over your mind is raging.
- Our spiritual growth will be determined and affected by the amount of time we spend waiting on the Lord.
 1. The waiting is not passive.
 2. Active waiting with anticipation.
 3. It should include quiet worship
- We need to quiet ourselves in an attitude to receive because He wants to commune with us!
- The parallel to this is crucifixion of our natural soulful life!
- This happens when we commit to the cross all things that hinder our spiritual development.
- What rebels against us to becoming still?
- There is a spiritual processing taking place, but it's not easy!
- Our ability to “wait on the Lord” will increase as we ... “wait on the Lord”!
- This increases our spiritual hunger and prophetic discernment!
- As well-intentioned as our relationships with other Christians may be, they will never satisfy our spiritual hunger that can only be satisfied in an intimate personal relationship with the Living God.
- Today, set aside that special time when you are absolutely alone with the Lord! Open your hands to receive. While we wait, the Lord will help us reorganize some things and create a sensitivity and openness to the realm of the spirit.
- When that happens, we better understand the Lord's desire toward us and toward others.
- Daily communion with the Lord defines His purpose / your purpose.

Philippians 3:10 *“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”*

- This awakening makes you more sensitive to the natural realm!
- Because of Jesus' sensitivity to the Father's will and time with Him, He knew the hearts of men. He maintained His position in the heavenlies. He refused to react according to circumstances. He listened to what His Father was saying and doing, not man's opinions.
- As you begin, you may feel very little of Him, but as you continue to wait with anticipation, you will cross over into His presence.
- Whatever you need to get there, God will clear the highway for you! Healing, renewal ... He is for you!
- You are made in His image!
- We are to move in the faith we have to believe and we will be lifted upward into the realm of the spirit.
- It is essential to set aside time – parents, single moms or dads, single adults, young teens, children – to be still and wait upon the Lord; to be still and listen.