

## Drawing Near

**Heb 4:14-16; Jms 5:5-8**

**2 Chr 16:9 — His eyes go to and fro to support those who are completely His. 1 Cor 11:1,31 — See the difference between how goats are and sheep are when they are summoned: goats resist and buck; sheep submit and follow; how are we? We must mingle with the sheep.** Notice the people who grow fast in the Body — those who thrive. They are those who *give* themselves to being handled, not resisting, but seeking direction.

Are we someone with thorns and thistles on us, around our edges? Those who are that way cannot be taken in hand and handled; the shepherd cannot even touch them. We want to overcome our defenses and qualities which make people feel “pushed away” and, instead, have a way about us that invites them to come in and handle us. Rev 3:20-22 — He overcame by supping with our Father; so can we.

When we feel that gnawing in our innermost being, we must go to Him; it is Him knocking at the door of our hearts; we need to be *quick* to let Him in. Otherwise we will drift further and further away. We need to see that gnawing like a hunger pang. Our Father does not want us to go hungry, suffering a lack of the food He has for us; He wants us to reach out for it and be nourished. We need to feed on it and thrive (1 Jn 1:7).

The book of life enlists us into the Kingdom. If we do not overcome, our name can be erased and we will miss the Kingdom. The Lamb’s book of life enlists us into the Holy City; it *cannot* be erased. We must be careful here not to reason, “Well, forget the Kingdom, I’ll settle for the Holy City,” because it shows an unwilling spirit to give up our life. It goes against the commitment we made at baptism and against the covenant of life and peace. It is not godly or right reasoning, but it is listening to the angel on the left, not the right.

Eph 3:14 20 — We need to equip ourselves as the word instructs us; He tells us how (Eph 4:11 16). We have NO EXCUSE; *nothing is lacking* on our Father’s part (or on the part of the Edah). The Holy Spirit is in us and in our brothers and sisters; all we need to do is tap it. It is He, through them, who will make us straight. We have no reason to go wrong EXCEPT OURSELVES; we can choose unbelief, obstinacy, stubbornness, but we always can have grace to say NO to ungodliness if we are faithful to ask and to listen.

Heb 3:7 14 — We need not fall like the first church did. How they fell is recorded in the epistles for our instruction. We need to overcome where they did not. To do that we must be mindful and turn our spirit toward being on the lookout against those same sins.

What keeps us from fellowship with YHWH and our brothers and sisters is the impenetrable barrier of unconfessed sin. We need to hate lawlessness above all else. We need to not be condemned about it but be thankful that the standard in our conscience is increasing and therefore seek our Father quickly — turn away from the left and repent. This will bring us joy. Take heart from those who have the most joy among us; we have the keys to the kingdom! Being separated from communion brings death and judgment. Because we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us 1000 out of 1000 times. Heb 4 — We need to draw near to the throne of grace.

If we want friends, we must be friendly. If we wait for others to befriend us, we are not worthy of the Kingdom and we have an errant spirit; we are obstinate and rebellious. If we feel our spirit saying, “Why don’t they come to me?” or, “Why doesn’t our Father come to me?” we are in the sin of SELF PITY. We must seek Him; He is all ready and always there, just WAITING for us to seek Him. If we submit ourselves to YHWH and come under His control, we will be blessed. He is faithful to cleanse us if we turn to Him and confess; then we can go on rejoicing, rather than dwelling in condemnation and drifting further from the life.

Therefore we must hold fast to our confession. Remember our baptism and what we gave up — the strongholds in our life that we renounced. He has been tempted by everything and we are many times over, yet He did not sin. So let us draw near and receive grace in time of need. Jms 4:6 — He gives a greater grace. YHWH opposes the proud. If we know what we need to do, we can FLY; like a bird who needs two wings —the two wings are

hearing and obeying. One without the other is no good; we need to hear rightly (our Father, not the evil one or our own will) and then obey. Then we can fly. We can soar where our Father wants to take us.

**WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE GRACE TO KNOW HOW TO DRAW NEAR** (we are heard to whine or complain that we simply do not know how to draw near, but if we exercise our spirit, we will know); **WE CANNOT RIGHTEOUSLY SAY WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO DO IT.**

The greatest obstacle to us drawing near is being **PROUD**. We must continue to walk in humility. There is grace for the humble, but He resists the proud. **ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS HUMBLE OURSELVES TO OUR FATHER**; He will let us know what we need to do; He will exalt us when we are humble.

Even to resist a hug is pride; the wall of pride is in the way. We need to give ourselves and be needy.

The cross exposes the heart — whether we live for Him or ourselves. **YHWH** knows exactly how many people He needs to rule and reign in the next age; He is practical, not mystical. We give up things for the sake of three things: 1) the Kingdom; 2) the gospels, and 3) our Master Yahshua, in order to inherit eternal life in the next age.

It is impossible for Elohim to rule on earth and the universe without us — He physically could not do it. He continually needs to teach, minister and bring to others; bring them to birth in the covenant. He cannot reign without the proper number that He needs.

We will rule in the next age with a rod of iron, for discipline. We cannot rule unless we suffer hardship.

Therefore we need to **DRAW NEAR** to Him with **OUR HEART AND MIND, ALL FOCUSED ON THE SPIRIT**. We can see the faithful ones enduring and pouring out life, receiving grace to overcome our tendency to give up.