

YOU DO IT

Scripture Reading: Read James 4

When you sing songs of worship, do you take time to evaluate whether the lyrics are biblical or not? There are many catchy tunes out there that can be heard on Christian radio or are sung in a church's worship service that don't always line up with the truth of God's Word. I'm not suggesting the songwriter is intentionally being heretical when he or she writes such numbers. Perhaps they don't know Scripture well enough. Possibly because it's just the song sounds pleasant to the ear and makes them feel good inside. Maybe they're just lazy. Who knows? Nonetheless, such songs keep getting sung week in and week out in churches.

One such song that used to be popular a few years ago has a line in it that goes: *"Draw me close to you."* It sounds so sweet and pious, doesn't it, to ask the Lord to draw us closer to him, especially with the melody with which it is sung. But, is it a biblical concept for a Christian to pray? Should we ask God to draw us close to him? You be the judge but don't make your decision until you read the two Scriptures below.

"Come near to God and he will come near to you." (James 4:8)

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 29:13-14)

They're pretty clear aren't they on who is to draw near? We are. Then, when we come near to God, he comes near to us. When we seek God with all our heart, we find him.

Now, to be fair, the only reason we can seek God in the first place is because he already took the initiative to find us. It was not Adam who sought out God in the garden after the fall. It was God crying out "Adam, where are you?" In fact, Jesus said, no one could come to him except the Father first draw him. Nonetheless, Father God has already taken the initiative. Jesus, the Son, has already offered his life on our behalf. The Holy Spirit has already done the work to apply the benefits of Christ's death in our life and has taken up residence within us as a deposit guaranteeing more to come. We already have access to the Father by faith. Jesus has already opened the way for us. The ball is now in our court. Will we draw near or not? If we do, we will find the Lord drawing ever nearer to us. If we don't, we won't.

So, now, back to the worship song: "Draw me close to you." Is it biblical? No, it's not. It is not the Lord's work to draw us. He has done that. It's our work to draw near now. You and I are as close to the Lord today as we want to be. Do you want more intimacy with the Lord? Don't ask him to draw you close. You do it. It's your responsibility and mine to take the initiative. When we do, we'll find him ever nearer and ever dearer.

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Are you as close today to the Lord as you want to be or do you want more? The invitation is yours to accept. Set aside some quality time to draw near to the Father, to listen for his voice, and to wait in his presence.

Take-a-way: *We're as close to God today as we choose to be.*