

August 16, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

James 4:8 *Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.* (NIV)

Abiding in Christ is also pictured here by James. It is first put into motion by our choice. We must choose to put Him upon the throne of our lives. He will never force Himself upon anyone. James says we must come near or draw near to Him. Because of our desire, He will meet us as well. Because we chose to sin, we must also choose to come to Him in repentance. **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* (NIV)

Now James, being very forthright, calls us sinners and double-minded. This is because that is what we are. He pulls no punches, nor should we. We must be straight with the LORD because He knows everything anyway. We are to come clean (wash our hands) and confess our sin (purify our hearts). We tend to say one thing and then do the other. That is why we are called double-minded. Remember the charge of Joshua to the people of Israel in **Josh. 24:15** *But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.* (NIV) When we choose to abide daily in His presence, He will not only come close to us, but He will fill us with His Spirit and grant us wisdom and understanding to walk in the light as He is in the light. We will enjoy fellowship with Him and see Him at work. The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Dear LORD, I desire to draw near to You today. Help me to stay clean by repenting of my sin and confessing it before You. I want to be clean in Your presence today. In Jesus Name, Amen