

WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
“Drawing Near To God”
James 4:8 and Revelation 3:20

“Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you. ...” James 4:8 (NLT)

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20 (NIV)

“Long ago, even before He made the world, God chose us to be His very own through what Christ would do for us ... with His love. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And He did this because He wanted to!” Ephesians 1:4-5 (TLB)

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV)

“And this was His purpose: that, when the time is right, He will gather us all together ... to be with Him in Christ forever!” Ephesians 1:10 (TLB)

I. INSIGHTS FROM SOLOMON – A LIFE WITHOUT GOD.

1. Life seems useless.

“... Life is useless, all useless. You spend your life working ... and what do you have to show for it? ... the world just stays the same.” Ecclesiastes 1:2-4 (GNT)

2. Life seems tiresome.

“The sun still rises, and it still goes down, ... the wind blows ... round and round and back again. Every river flows into the sea ... (then) the water returns to where the rivers began, and starts all over again. Everything leads to weariness ... ” Ecclesiastes 1:4-8 (GNT)

3. Life seems unfulfilling.

“No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. No matter how much we hear, we are not content. History merely repeats itself. Nothing ... is truly new.” Ecclesiastes 1:8-10 (NLT)

4. Life seems insignificant.

“No one remembers what has happened in the past, and no one in days to come will remember what happens between now and then.” Ecclesiastes 1:11 (GNT)

II. WALKING IN INTIMACY

1. I move from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity.

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.” Ephesians 4:14 (NIV)

2. I embrace new faith adventures. I have a starting faith not just a quitting faith.

“... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10 (NIV)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

3. God’s thoughts inform my thinking.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

4. The Holy Spirit balances my emotions.

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

5. I learn to be content.

“... for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV)

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’” Hebrews 13:5-6 (NIV)

6. I abandon my narcissism.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve ...” Mark 10:45 (NIV)

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:4 (NIV)

7. The Spirit overcomes my flesh.

“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV)

“... the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4 (NIV)

8. My work life attitude changes.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

9. Problems develop me, not destroy me.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4 (NIV)

10. I continually long for and delight in His presence.

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” Psalm 122:1 (NIV)

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.” Psalm 27:4 (NIV)