

Draw Near To God

- To Whom We Draw
- Means or Source
- Possible To Draw Away
- Come Very Near
- Blessings

One of the **GREATEST** privileges, **OFFERED** to mankind, is that of **Drawing NEAR** to God.
All of us should **SEEK** to build a **CLOSE** relationship to God.

In one sense, God is Near all.

- [Acts 17:27](#) reads, “they should **SEEK** the Lord, if haply they might feel **AFTER** (or Toward) Him, and **FIND** Him, though **He be NOT far from every one of us:**”

This Nearness does not have to do with geographical location, but with **RELATIONSHIP**.

- Everyone of us, have the ability to be **CLOSE** to God, or to be **SEPARATED** from Him.
- Of course, the **Great separator** is **SIN** ([Isa.59:1-2](#)).

We should consider the One,

I. To Whom We Draw Near

A. He is All Powerful and Wise

- John said, “I heard **AS** it were the voice of a great multitude, and **AS** the voice of many waters, and **AS** the voice of mighty thunders, saying, **Alleluia: for the Lord God Omnipotent** (or All Powerful), **REIGNETH.**” ([Rev.19:6](#))
- “**GREAT** is our Lord, and of great **POWER**: His understanding is **INFINITE.**” ([Psa.147:5](#))
- “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him, with Whom we have to do.” ([Heb.4:13](#))

The One to Whom, we are to draw near...

B. He is to be Revered and Feared

- [Psa.111:9](#) reads, “He **SENT** redemption unto His people: He hath **COMMANDED** His covenant for ever: Holy and Reverend is His **NAME.**”
- “Thou, even **Thou, art to be FEARED:** and who may stand in Thy sight, when once Thou art **ANGRY?**” ([Psa.76:7](#))
- “Who knoweth the **POWER** of Thine anger? even according to Thy **FEAR**, so is Thy **WRATH.**” ([Psa.90:11](#))

For those who have,

- “hardness and impenitent **HEART**, treasurest up unto thyself **WRATH** against the **DAY** of wrath and **REVELATION** of the Righteous **JUDGMENT** of God;” (reads [Rom.2:5](#))

The One to Whom, we are to draw near...

C. He is full of Love, Mercy, and Compassion

- “Thou, O Lord, art a God **FULL** of compassion, and **GRACIOUS**, longsuffering, and **PLENTEOUS** in Mercy and Truth.” ([Psa.86:15](#))
- “The Lord is **NOT** slack concerning His promise, **AS** some men count slackness; but is **LONGSUFFERING** to us-ward, **NOT** willing that **ANY** should **PERISH**, but that **ALL** should **COME** to **REPENTANCE.**” ([2Pet.3:9](#))
- “Who **WILL** have **ALL** men to be **SAVED**, and to **COME** unto the knowledge of the **Truth.**” ([1Tim.2:4](#))

God is willing to be approached.

He is not as the heathen gods of Greek mythology, where men were always working to appease their anger.

The lesson is entitled, "*Draw Near To God*".

Consider the,

II. Means or Source, of Drawing Near

A. For The Sinner

...The Means of Drawing Near, Must come through Christ.

- "for **THROUGH Him**, we both **HAVE ACCESS** by one Spirit unto the Father." ([Eph.2:18](#))
- "Wherefore He is **ABLE** also to **SAVE** them to the **uttermost**, that **COME** unto God by Him, seeing He **ever LIVETH** to **make INTERCESSION** for them." ([Heb.7:25](#))

The Bible says, we are made near by the blood of Christ.

- "now **IN Christ Jesus**, ye who **sometimes WERE** far off, are **made NIGH** by the blood of Christ." ([Eph. 2:13](#))

We are Drawn, by hearing and learning of the Father.

- "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him (drawn by hearing and learning): and I will raise him up at the last day (speaking of the judgment to come).
⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all **TAUGHT** of God.
Every man therefore that **hath HEARD**, and hath **LEARNED** of the Father, **COMETH** unto Me." ([Jn.6:44-45](#))

Coming to God, must be done, in accordance to His will.

The Bible says, in [Heb.10:9-10](#),

- "then said He (that is, Jesus), Lo, I **COME to DO Thy Will, O God**.
He **TAKETH AWAY** the **first** (or Old Testament), that He may **ESTABLISH** the **second** (or New Testament).
¹⁰ **BY** the which will we are **sanctified**, **THROUGH** the **offering** of the body of Jesus Christ **ONCE** for all." (that's [Heb.10:9-10](#))
- "For the (old) law made nothing perfect, but the **bringing IN**, of a **BETTER hope** did (that is, the New Testament gospel); **BY** the which we **DRAW NIGH** unto God." ([Heb.7:19](#))

We must Be careful not to be mislead.

- "that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;" ([Eph.4:14](#))

Consider, the Means of Drawing Near,

B. For The Christian

- "let us **DRAW NEAR** with a true heart in full assurance of **FAITH**, having our **hearts** **SPRINKLED** from an evil conscience, and our **bodies** **WASHED** with pure water." ([Heb.10:22](#); [Acts 22:16](#))
- "The Lord is **NIGH** unto them, that are of a broken heart; and **SAVETH** such, as be, of a contrite spirit." ([Psa.34:18](#))

Let us draw near by means of prayer.

- “The Lord is **NIGH** unto all them that Call upon Him, to all that Call upon Him **IN TRUTH.**” ([Psa.145:18](#))
- “Let us therefore **COME boldly** unto the **THRONE** of Grace, that we may **OBTAIN** Mercy, and **FIND** Grace to **HELP** in time of **NEED.**” ([Heb.4:16](#))

Let us draw near In our songs.

- “By Him therefore, let us **OFFER** the sacrifice of **PRAISE** to God continually, that is, the fruit of our **LIPS**, giving **THANKS** to His **NAME.**” ([Heb.13:15](#))

And let us draw near in the Lord's Supper.

- “The **CUP** of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the **BLOOD** of Christ? The **BREAD** which we break, is it not the communion of the **BODY** of Christ?” ([1Cor.10:16](#))

Let us draw near, by daily, godly living.

- “but **IF** we walk **IN** the **LIGHT**, as He is **IN** the **LIGHT**, we have **FELLOWSHIP** one with another, and the **BLOOD** of Jesus Christ, His Son, **CLEANSETH** us from all sin.” ([1Jn.1:7](#))

If we are to Draw Near To God, We should remember, that is,

III. Possible To Draw Away

A. Our Hearts CAN be Far Away

- Jesus said, “This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is FAR from Me.⁹ But in VAIN they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments OF Men.” ([Matt.15:8-9](#))

B. Some Draw Back to Perdition

- “we are not OF them, who draw back unto perdition (or destruction); but **OF** them that **BELIEVE**, to the saving of the **SOUL.**” ([Heb.10:39](#))
- Hosea said, “my people are bent to **BACKSLIDING** from me: though they **CALLED** them to the **Most High**, NONE at all, would exalt Him.” ([Hosea 11:7](#))

C. We Draw Back, When we REBEL Against ANY commandment of God

- “Thus saith the Lord, **STAND** ye in the ways, and **SEE**, and **ASK** for the old PATHS, where is the good way, and **WALK** therein, and ye shall **FIND** rest for your **SOULS**. But they said, We will NOT walk therein.” ([Jer.6:16](#))
- “And they said, There is **NO hope**: but we will WALK after our **OWN devices**, and we will every one DO the imagination of his **EVIL heart.**” ([Jer.18:12](#))

D. We Draw Back, When we IGNORE Any commandment of God

- “Therefore to him that **KNOWETH** to do good, and Doeth it **NOT**, to him it is **SIN.**” ([Jas.4:17](#))

IV. Come Very Near

A. Near Enough, To Be Friends With God

- James wrote, “the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham BELIEVED God, and it was imputed unto him for RIGHTEOUSNESS: and he was called the FRIEND of God.” ([Jas.2:23](#); [Heb.11:8,17](#))
- Jesus said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
¹⁴ Ye are My friends, IF ye DO whatsoever I COMMAND you.” ([Jn.15:13-14](#))

We should COME,

B. Near Enough, To Be In God's Family

- “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.” ([1Jn.3:1](#))
- “the number of the children of Israel, shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured, nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there, it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the Living God.” ([Hos.1:10](#))

We should COME,

C. Near Enough, To Cry Abba Father

- “because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” ([Gal.4:6](#))
- “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” ([Rom.8:15](#))

We should COME,

D. Near Enough, To Be In God's Circle of Love

- Jesus said, “the glory which thou gavest Me, I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are ONE:
²³ I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast Loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.

²⁴ Father, I will, that they also, Whom thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou Lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ O Righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee: but I have known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent Me.

²⁶ And I have declared unto them Thy Name, and will declare it: that the LOVE wherewith Thou hast Loved Me, may be IN them, and I in them.” ([Jn.17:22-26](#))

Notice some,

V. Blessings for Drawing Near

A. From the Book of Psalms,

- ...We are informed, that God will “put **GLADNESS** in (our) heart”(Psa.4:7a)

God will surround us with a shield.

- “For Thou, Lord, wilt **BLESS** the righteous; with **FAVOUR** wilt Thou compass him, as with a **SHIELD**.” (Psa.5:12)

God will be a refuge in times of trouble, as the Bible says,

- “The Lord also, will be a **REFUGE** for the oppressed, a **REFUGE** in times of **TROUBLE**.” (reads Psa.9:9)

From the Psalms, we are informed that,

God will lift us up from the gates of death.

- Psa.9:13 says, “Have mercy upon me, O Lord; **CONSIDER** my trouble which I **SUFFER** of them that hate me, Thou that **LIFTEST** me **UP**, from the gates of **DEATH**.”

God Will deal bountifully with us.

- Psa.13:6 reads, “I will **SING** unto the Lord, because **He** hath dealt **BOUNTIFULLY** with me.”

God Will show His marvelous lovingkindness.

- Psa.17:7 states, “Shew Thy marvellous **LOVINGKINDNESS**, O Thou that **SAVEST** by Thy right hand them which put their **TRUST** in Thee, from those that rise up against them.”

God Will be a support and deliverer.

- The Psalmist said, “They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the Lord was my **STAY**.” (Psa.18:18)

God Will arm us with strength.

- “It is God that **GIRDETH** me with strength, and **MAKETH** my way **PERFECT**.” (Psa.18:32)

God Will bring us out of our distresses.

- “The **TROUBLES** of my heart are **ENLARGED**: O bring Thou me **OUT** of my **DISTRESSES**.” (Psa.25:17)

God Will strengthen our hearts.

- The Psalmist said, “**WAIT** on the Lord: be of **GOOD** courage, and He shall **STRENGTHEN** thine heart: **WAIT**, I say, on the Lord.” (Psa.27:14)

Notice some blessings for drawing near,

Notice some blessings for Drawing Near,

B. From the New Testament

We are told, God will not allow us to be OVER tempted.

- “There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man: but **God is FAITHFUL, Who will not SUFFER you, to be tempted ABOVE that ye are ABLE;** but will **WITH** the temptation, also **MAKE a way to ESCAPE**, that ye may be **ABLE to bear it.**” ([1Cor.10:13](#))

God will aid us when we are tempted.

- [Heb.2:18](#) reads, “For in that He Himself hath **SUFFERED** being tempted, He is **ABLE to succour** them that are **TEMPTED.**”

God will give grace to help in time of need.

- The Hebrew writer said, “Let us therefore **COME boldly** unto the **THRONE of Grace**, that we may **OBTAIN Mercy**, and **FIND Grace to HELP** in time of NEED.” ([Heb.4:16](#))

God will never leave or forsake us.

- “**LET** your conversation (or manner of living) **Be without** covetousness; and **Be CONTENT** with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will **NEVER leave** thee, **NOR forsake** thee.” ([Heb.13:5](#))

God will provide and care for us.

- Peter said, “**CASTING** all your care UPON Him; for He **CARETH** for you.” ([1Pet.5:7](#))

God will give peace of mind.

- “Be careful for nothing (that is, don’t worry); but **IN** every thing **BY prayer** and supplication **WITH thanksgiving** **LET** your requests be **MADE KNOWN** unto God. ⁷And the **PEACE** of God, which **PASSETH** all understanding, shall **KEEP** your hearts and minds **THROUGH** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.4:6-7](#))

God will love us and make His abode with us.

- Jesus said, “**IF** a man **LOVE Me**, he will **KEEP My Words**: and My Father will **LOVE** him, and **WE WILL come** unto him, and make OUR ABODE with him.” ([Jn.14:23](#))

God will guide and strengthen us.

- Peter said, “the **God of ALL Grace**, Who hath **Called** us unto His **Eternal Glory** **BY** Christ Jesus, **AFTER** that ye have **SUFFERED** a while, **MAKE** you perfect, STABLISH, strengthen, SETTLE you.” ([1Pet.5:10](#))

God will present us faultless, before His throne with exceeding joy.

- Jude said, “Now unto Him that is **ABLE to KEEP** you from falling, and to **PRESENT** you faultless before the presence of His Glory **WITH Exceeding JOY**, ²⁵ to the **ONLY Wise God**, our **Saviour**, be Glory and Majesty, Dominion and Power, both now and ever. Amen.” ([Jude vs.24-25](#))

VI. IN-CLOSING

Nearness to God, rests with each of us.

- “Draw **NIGH** to God, and He will Draw **NIGH** to you.
Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” ([Jas.4:8](#))

Let us **NOT** be alienated or separated through wicked works.

Let us call upon Him, in accordance with Biblical Truth, and out of a sincere heart.

- “The Lord is **NIGH** unto all them that **CALL** upon Him,
to all that **CALL** upon Him in **TRUTH** (that is, according to His Gospel Truth).” ([Psa.145:18](#))

If you have a spiritual Need, the Lord invites you, and we await to assist you,

Come **believing** ([Heb.11:6](#)), **repenting** ([Lk.13:3](#)), **confessing** ([Acts 8:37](#)), Be **Baptized** INTO Christ ([Gal.3:27](#); [Rom.6:4](#)),
And **Endure** until the end ([Matt.24:13](#); [Rev.2:10](#))

...While together we stand and sing.