

HOW TO BE NEAR TO GOD

The Bible makes it very clear -- *"Draw near to God -- and He will draw near to you"* (James 4:8) -- simple enough -- God waits patiently for you to take the first step, and then He will surround you with His Love.

How would you like to have the very presence of God with you all day long? What a Comfort and Joy that would be. Wake up in the morning and greet Him with a quick Praise note -- then all day keep Him on your mind -- at work, at school, at play -- go over some Bible verses that you have *"hid in your heart"* (Psalm 119:11) by memorizing and repeating them over and over again until they become a part of your every day life.

In the evening, before retiring, look up other verses and do your best to commit them to memory. You may have to turn off the TV and skip some of your favorite shows, but you will be the better by so doing.

Just think of it -- to be near to the God of the Universe -- the Creator of Heaven and earth -- to have Him just a whispered prayer away -- allowing Him to guide you and go before you into every phase of your life.

"Draw near to God" -- leave the world behind and fill your life with Him -- and the verse promises that *"He will draw near to you."*

Of course you will have work to do -- duties to perform -- responsibilities to fulfill throughout the day, but all can and will be accomplished on a much higher plain -- you will be in partnership with the *"King of kings and Lord of lords"* (1 Timothy 6:15) -- who has promised *"never to leave nor forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5).

What a deal -- can you believe it -- all for the asking! -- and He has also promised, *"And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world"* (Matthew 28:20).

There's a beautiful Hymn that says it all -- *"There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God, A place where sin cannot molest, Near to the heart of God."* When we are *"Near to the heart of God"* we can experience His Comfort, Joy and Peace.

Let's face it -- we live in a troubled world -- fear, strife, and problems at every turn -- but we have the promise of God that we can take all of this to Him and allow Him to deal with them. There's another Hymn that tells us -- *"All your anxiety, all your care, Bring to the Mercy-seat, leave it there -- Never a burden He cannot bear, Never a Friend like Jesus."*

These old Hymns were written by people who had been through all the problems we face -- had Victory in Jesus -- and have recorded them for our Comfort and Peace. What a contrast to the modern screaming, jumping, repetition of what we hear today -- with no message or comfort for our souls.

As we “draw Near to God” the “things of earth” will fade away and His presence will fill our hearts and minds with His Goodness and Peace.

Take that first step toward the Lord -- commit your heart and life to Him -- He is waiting with open arms for you -- allow Him to fill your life to overflowing and give you His Peace and Contentment.

One last thought -- another old Hymn -- “*The Savior is waiting to enter your heart, Why don't you let Him come in? There's nothing in this world to keep you apart, What is your answer to Him? Time after time He has waited before, And now He is waiting again To see if you're willing to open the door, O, how He wants to come in*” -- DO IT NOW!

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