

Draw Near to God by Faith

(Two perspectives)

Perspective #1

Drawing Near to God by Faith: A Journey of Spiritual Connection

Faith is the cornerstone of the Christian Walk, and drawing near to God is one of its most profound expressions. Yet, as believers, we often grapple with questions such as: How do we draw near to a God we cannot see?

How do we maintain our faith and prevent ourselves from giving up during difficult times? This teaching seeks to explore these questions through biblical insights and practical steps, encouraging believers to deepen their relationship with God.

The Call to Draw Near

The Bible repeatedly emphasizes God's desire for His children to draw near to Him. **James 4:8** declares, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (NKJV). This invitation is both profound and personal, reflecting the heart of a loving Father who values His relationship with us above all else.

However, drawing near requires effort, intentionality, and faith—qualities that enable us to connect with a spiritual God in a physical world filled with distractions.

Faith: The Bridge Between Seen and Unseen

Faith is the key that unlocks our ability to draw near to God. **Hebrews 11:1** defines faith as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (NKJV).

While we cannot physically see God, faith allows us to perceive His presence and trust in His promises. **Romans 12:3** reminds us that every believer has been given "a measure of faith" by God, but it is our responsibility to nurture and grow that faith.

Faith must override our reliance on physical senses. As **2 Corinthians 5:7** states, "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (RSV). This principle challenges us to prioritize the unseen realities of God's kingdom over the visible distractions of the world.

When we elevate God's presence above our circumstances, hobbies, possessions, and even problems, we cultivate a deeper connection with Him.

Practical Steps to Draw Near

Drawing near to God is not a passive act; it requires deliberate action and commitment. Here are four **essential practices** that can help believers draw closer to their Heavenly Father:

1. Hearing the Word of God

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**). Regular exposure to Scripture—whether through personal study, sermons, or audio teachings—strengthens our faith and deepens our understanding of God's character. The Word reveals His promises, guidance, and love, enabling us to trust Him even when we face challenges.

2. Prayer

Prayer is our direct line of communication with God. It is through prayer that we express our love, gratitude, and dependence on Him. **James 4:8** highlights the importance of prayer in drawing near to God, encouraging believers to resist distractions and approach Him with sincerity. Prayer also aligns our hearts with His will and opens the door for deeper intimacy.

3. Studying Scripture

Studying God's Word goes beyond reading; it involves meditating on its truths and applying them to our lives. **Ephesians 5:1** calls us to be imitators of God, which requires understanding His ways through diligent study. As we immerse ourselves in Scripture, we gain wisdom and clarity, making God more real in our daily lives.

4. Applying the Word

Faith without action is incomplete (**James 2:26**). Applying God's Word in practical ways demonstrates our trust in Him and strengthens our spiritual connection. Whether it's showing love to others, forgiving offenses, or living out biblical principles, obedience is a powerful way to draw near to God.

The Competition Between Seen and Unseen

In today's world, the competition for our attention is fierce. Physical possessions, hobbies, jobs, relationships, and even electronic devices often compete for priority over our spiritual pursuits.

These visible elements can overshadow the unseen reality of God's presence if we are not intentional about maintaining our focus on Him.

The question arises: Will we value God more than the things of this world? The answer lies in the choices we make daily. When we prioritize time spent with God—through prayer, study, and worship—we elevate His importance in our lives. As **John 3:30** states, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (AMP). This shift in focus enables us to see the value of God above all else.

Strengthening Faith During Difficult Times

Faith is most tested during trials and tribulations. Yet it is precisely in these moments that drawing near to God becomes vital. **Hebrews 11:6** reminds us that "without faith it is impossible to please Him" (AMP). By faith, we overcome challenges rather than being overtaken by them (**1 John 5:4-5**).

Consider the example of Abraham's unwavering faith in God's promise (**Romans 4:19-22**). Despite his circumstances—being old and facing Sarah's barrenness—Abraham remained fully convinced that God could fulfill His promises. Similarly, Paul's confidence in God's ability to guard what he entrusted to Him exemplifies a faith that transcends suffering (**2 Timothy 1:12**).

To strengthen our faith during difficult times, we must continue hearing God's Word, praying fervently, studying Scripture, and applying its truths. These practices keep our faith level higher than our problems, allowing us to see God as greater than any obstacle.

The Reward of Drawing Near

God promises rewards for those who diligently seek Him (**Hebrews 11:6**). These rewards go beyond material blessings; they include deeper intimacy with Him, greater sensitivity to His presence, and revelations that transform our lives. As we draw near to God, He reveals Himself in ways that inspire awe and conviction.

John 3:19-21 highlights how coming into the light exposes areas in our lives that need transformation. While this process may be uncomfortable at times, it leads to spiritual growth and alignment with God's will. The more time we spend with Him, the more we are shaped into His likeness.

Conclusion

Drawing near to God by faith is both a privilege and a responsibility for believers. It requires effort, intentionality, and a willingness to prioritize the unseen reality of His presence over the visible distractions of the world.

By hearing His Word, praying sincerely, studying Scripture diligently, and applying its truths faithfully, we cultivate a deeper connection with our Heavenly Father.

The choice to draw near belongs to each of us. Will we value God above all else? Will we seek Him during both peaceful times and trials?

Let us not allow difficulties or distractions to dictate our relationship with Him but instead draw near out of love and devotion. As we do so, our faith will grow stronger, enabling us to overcome life's challenges and experience the fullness of His presence.

Let us **commit today** to drawing near to God by faith—for He is always ready to draw near to us.

Perspective #2

I hope this message finds you well and encouraged. Today, I want to share some thoughts about drawing near to God, especially when life gets tough or when we feel distant from Him. It's something many of us wrestle with, but it's also something we can grow in through faith and intentional effort.

Let's start with this question: How do we draw near to God; someone we can't physically see?

It's a big question, but the answer lies in faith. Faith is the key that bridges the gap between the visible world and the invisible God. **Hebrews 11:1** says it beautifully: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

It's through faith that God becomes more real to us, even though we can't see Him with our physical eyes.

Think about it—faith is like a muscle. We all have a measure of it (**Romans 12:3**), but it's our responsibility to strengthen and grow it. Just like you might work out to build physical strength, we need to put effort into building our faith. How? By hearing God's Word, praying, studying Scripture, and applying His truths in our lives (**2 Peter 1:5**).

Here's the thing: whatever we value, we pay attention to. If we value our relationship with God, we'll spend time nurturing it. Just like we invest time and energy into hobbies, relationships, or jobs, we need to intentionally invest in our connection with Him. **James 4:8** gives us a simple promise: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." The choice is ours, but the reward is worth it.

I know life can be overwhelming—problems, distractions, and even good things can compete for our attention. But here's an important truth: God is bigger than any problem we face. When we keep our faith strong and focused on Him, He becomes greater in our hearts than anything else going on around us. That's how we overcome it instead of being overtaken (**1 John 5:4-5**).

One way to stay connected to God is by remembering His incredible love for us. **John 3:16** reminds us that He gave His very best—His Son Jesus—for us.

When we grasp the depth of that love, it inspires us to give our best back to Him. It might mean spending more time in prayer, diving deeper into Scripture, or simply being more aware of His presence in our daily lives.

Another thing to keep in mind is that drawing near to God takes effort and time—it doesn't happen overnight. It's like any meaningful relationship; the more time you spend together, the stronger the bond becomes.

As we spend time with God, we become more sensitive to His presence and His guidance in our lives. Things that might have been unclear before start to make sense as He reveals them to us.

But here's a challenge: will we prioritize God over everything else—over possessions, hobbies, jobs, even relationships? It's not always easy, but when we make Him our highest priority, everything else falls into its rightful place.

Let me encourage you with the example of Abraham and Paul—two people who had incredible faith levels despite facing huge challenges. Abraham didn't let his circumstances shake his faith; he trusted that God would fulfill His promises (**Romans 4:19-22**).

Paul was fully convinced and positively persuaded that God could guard what he committed to Him (**2 Timothy 1:12**). Their faith was greater than their problems, and that's a powerful reminder for us today.

So how do we keep our faith strong? Here are four simple steps:

- 1. Hear the Word of God** – Make time to listen to sermons, read Scripture aloud, or meditate on verses that speak to your heart.
- 2. Pray to the Father** – Prayer doesn't have to be complicated; just talk to God honestly about what's on your mind and heart.
- 3. Study Scripture** – Dig deeper into God's Word to understand His promises and character.
- 4. Apply His Word** – Live out what you learn in your daily life—it's how faith becomes real and active.

If we neglect these things, our faith can weaken, and suddenly our problems might seem bigger than God. But when we stay consistent in these practices, our faith grows stronger, and God becomes more real to us than anything else.

So let's make the choice today—to draw near to God not out of obligation or fear but **out of love for Him**. Let's prioritize Him above everything else and trust that He'll meet us where we are.

Keep pressing forward in faith and remember—you're deeply loved by a Father who values you more than you can imagine.

Be encouraged! Draw Near to God by Faith! Start today.

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