

Enjoy The Nearness Of God

A Teaching Outline

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

The nearness of God

The Nearness of God is very good.

Psalm 73:28

But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works.

Just a closer walk with thee.

Author unknown.

1. I am weak, but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

○ *Refrain:*

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

3. When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

God is at my right hand.

Psalm 16:8

I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

It is human nature to make our own plans and *then* ask God to bless them.

Instead, we should seek God's will first. By constantly thinking about the Lord and his way of living, we will gain insights that will help us make right decisions and live the way God desires. Communicating with God allows him to counsel us and give us wisdom.

By saying that he "will not be shaken," David was talking about the unique sense of security felt by believers.

God does not exempt believers from the day-to-day circumstances of life. Believers and unbelievers alike experience pain, trouble, and failure at times (Matthew 5:45). Unbelievers have a sense of hopelessness about life and confusion over their true purpose on earth.

Those who seek God, however, can move ahead, confident in knowing what is right in God's eyes. They know that God will keep them from straying off his chosen path.

Illustration

I read about this young man that was drafted into the army. Shortly thereafter he wrote his mother the following letter:

“Dear Mom, You know they drafted me into this man’s army, much against my wishes. They took away my name and gave me a number. They gave me number 298. Ever since I have been in this man’s army, we haven’t done anything but march. We march all morning, we march to chow, we march all afternoon, and by nighttime I am so exhausted I can’t even sleep. The only thing that kept me going was the ideal that when Sunday came, I’d get to rest a little bit. But, on Saturday, the Sergeant informed us that we’d have to get up two hours earlier on Sunday and make preparation to

march to Church. We marched to Church and set down. I was just getting ready to get me a little siesta going, when some character got up down front with a book in his hand. He said, "Number 298, Are you weak and are you weary? Are you sore and heavy-laden?"

I stood up and said, "Your mighty right I am; and I want to say that since I have been in this man's army, you're the first person that has cared enough to ask me how I've been feeling about it." And you know what mother? I've been in the Brig ever since

God is near to the broken hearted.

Psalm 34:18

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

We often wish we could escape troubles—the pain of grief, loss, sorrow, and failure, or even the small daily frustrations that constantly wear us down. God promises to be "close to the brokenhearted" and to be our source of power, courage, and wisdom, helping us through our problems.

Sometimes he chooses to deliver us from those problems. When trouble strikes, don't get frustrated with God. Instead, admit that you need God's help and thank him for being by your side.

You are near, o Lord.

Psalm 119:151

You are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are truth.

Faith comes alive when we apply Scripture to our daily tasks and concerns. We need discernment so we can understand, and we need the desire to apply Scripture where we need help.

The Bible is like medicine: It goes to work only when we apply it to the affected areas.

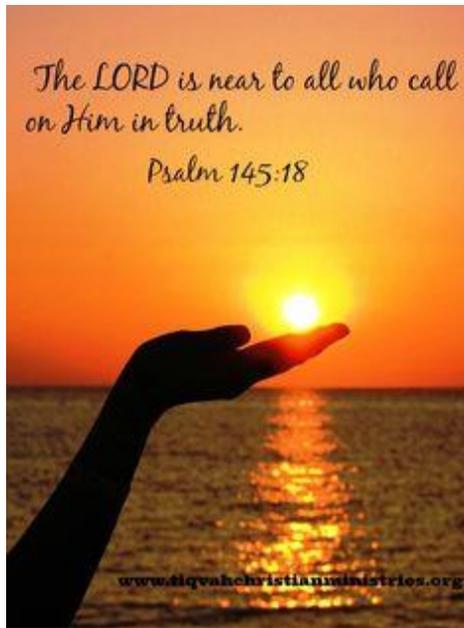
Illustration:

Jay Kesler told about a boy who had been arrested for armed robbery. The boy's Christian parents were so ashamed that they didn't leave their home for several days. They didn't know if they could face people again, particularly those in their church.

The parents finally went to church, and their shame and fear made them stick together like burrs. But something wonderful happened. A stream of people came to them for spiritual help.

The father said later, "It seems to me that when people take a super-spiritual pose in church, pretending to have no problems, the other church people are afraid to be honest about their own problems for fear that they will look like failures.

All Christians have problems and need the help of God and of others.



God is near to all that call upon him in truth.

Psalm 145:18

The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

Sometimes our burdens seem more than we can bear, and we wonder how we can go on.

David stands at this bleak intersection of life's road and meditates on the Lord, the great burden bearer. God is able to lift us up because

- (1) His greatness is beyond discovery (145:3);
- (2) He does mighty acts for each generation (145:4);
- (3) He is full of majestic, glorious splendor (145:5);
- (4) He does awe-inspiring deeds (145:5, 6);

(5) He is righteous (145:7);

(6) He is kind, merciful, patient, loving, and compassionate (145:8, 9);

(7) He rules over an everlasting kingdom (145:13);

(8) He is our source of all our daily needs (145:15, 16);

(9) He is righteous and kind in all his dealings (145:17);

(10) He remains close to those who call on him (145:18);

(11) He hears our cries and rescues us (145:19, 20).

If you are bending under a burden and feel that you are about to fall, turn to God for help. He is ready to lift you up and bear your burden.

He who vindicates me is near.

Isaiah 50:8

He who vindicates me is near; who will contend with me? Let us stand up to each other; who has a case against me? Let him draw near to me.

At the Nicene Council, an important church meeting in the 4th century A.D., of the 318 delegates attending, fewer than 12 had not lost an eye or lost a hand or did not limp on a leg lamed by torture for their Christian faith.

[Vance Havner.](#)

Somerset Maugham, the English writer, once wrote a story about a janitor at St Peter's Church in London.

One day a young vicar discovered that the janitor was illiterate and fired him. Jobless, the man invested his meager savings in a tiny tobacco shop, where he prospered, bought another, expanded, and ended up with a chain of tobacco stores worth several hundred thousand dollars.

One day the man's banker said, "You've done well for an illiterate, but where would you be if you could read and write?" "Well," replied the man, "I'd be janitor of St. Peter's Church in Neville Square."

Bits and Pieces, June 24, 1993, p. 23.

Parnell Bailey visited an orange grove where an irrigation pump had broken down. The season was unusually dry and some of the trees were beginning to die for lack of water. The man giving the tour then took Bailey to his own orchard where irrigation was used sparingly.

"These trees could go without rain for another 2 weeks," he said. "You see, when they were young, I frequently kept water from them. This hardship caused them to send their roots deeper into the soil in search of moisture. Now mine are the deepest-rooted trees in the area. While others are being scorched by the sun, these are finding moisture at a greater depth."

Our Daily Bread.

God is not far off.

Jeremiah 23:23

"Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off?"

God is not far from each of us.

Acts 17:27

That they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Paul explained the one true God to these educated men of Athens; although these men were, in general, very religious, they did not know God. Today we have a "Christian" society, but to most people, God is still unknown.

We need to proclaim who he is and make clear what he did for everyone through his Son, Jesus Christ. We cannot assume that even religious people around us truly know Jesus or understand the importance of faith in him.

Let us draw near to God.

1 Samuel 14:36

Then Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night and take spoil among them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them." And they said, "Do whatever seems good to you." So the priest said, "Let us draw near to God here."

To bring on a better hope, we draw near to God.

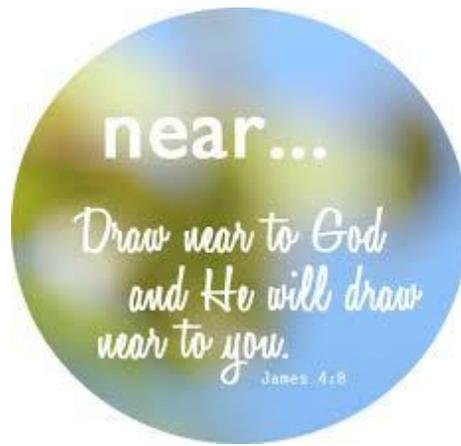
Hebrews 7:19

(For the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

Draw near to God with a sincere heart.

Hebrews 10:22

Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.



Draw near to God and will draw near to you.

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

New American Standard Bible

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print