



Devotional Study Guide Journal

January 4th

“Closer” to God

Many Christians today desire to be “closer” to God. But is this even possible? When first studying this topic, I searched for the word “closer” to see what there might be and discovered that there are no New Testament examples of born-again Christians needing to get closer to God.

Then I searched for “nearer.” There is no “nearer” either, but the word near is used. However, in context, that was only referring to coming to God for salvation. After nearly 15 years of chasing that goal, we actually felt as if God was farther away than ever.

We spent multiple years of our lives trying to get closer to God, and to be honest, it was like chasing a carrot dangling in front of us.

It took so long to realize that seeking to get closer to God is an insult to the cross of Christ. Consider this: one of the main benefits of the New Covenant is that we all know God.

Jeremiah 31:34

No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

But on and on the drumbeat goes. We keep teaching people to “know the Lord,” even though under the New Covenant, we don’t need to teach each other this anymore. Why not? It is because we all already know Him—from the person who came to Jesus yesterday to the person who has walked with Him for decades. We all know Him.

Why do we know Him? It is because He forgave all our sins on the cross—past, present, and future, and He remembers them no more. There is never a separation between us at all.

You are as close to God as you ever can be.

You already know Him.

*You don’t need to enter His presence
because His presence has permanently entered you.*

Just talk to God.

He is right there listening and ready to help you.

Yet on we go teaching each other to know the Lord, and not only to know Him, but to know Him “more.” We are taught we need to get closer and given formulas for approaching God. Have you ever stopped to think about how ridiculous these practices are?

What do WE think that WE could do that would be good enough to make ourselves closer to the almighty God? Fasting won’t bring you closer. Formulas won’t do. Endless confession of sins and praise will not suffice. Praying endlessly or consistently won’t bring you closer. Sitting perfectly still with soft music playing in the background won’t help. What about a lifetime of good works—will that gain you entrance into His presence? No.

Seekers try whipping themselves or crawling on their hands and knees and weeping and wailing. They hoop and holler themselves into a state of ecstasy. Maybe if we shed our own blood?

Stop this madness! Rest! We have been brought perfectly near to God through the sacrifice of His Son. The veil that separated you from God was torn when Jesus said, “It is finished.” You CANNOT get closer. You are already perfectly united with Him. He is in you, and you are in Him. Paul even writes, “He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”

You CANNOT get any closer than that.

*We don't pray to get closer to God.
We pray because we are already close.
We are IN Him, and He is IN us.*

Jesus was the only one who could accomplish this for us, and He did a good and thorough job so we would not be left on our own to accomplish what we cannot accomplish.

Herein lies the rest we’ve been promised. Cease from your own labors and embrace what He’s done FOR you.

If you want to study this topic in greater detail, listen to [Lesson 8: “Do You Know How Close to God You Are?”](#) in the [“Do You Know How Series.”](#)

