

Drawing Near to God

Knowledge of the Presence

Fulness of joy and pleasures forevermore (Ps.16:11)

Distance from God

- Experiencing the doctrine of God's Presence (Acts 17:27-28; Job 42:5; Ps.23:4)
- Not geographical, but relational
- The leaving of one's first love (Isa.29:13)
- Samson "did not know that the Lord had departed from him" (Judges 16:20)
- "If you feel far from God..."

Effects of "drift" (Heb.2:1)

- Lukewarmness, apathy (Rev.3:15-16)
- Distractions, worries, busyness (Luke 10:38-42)
- Compromise
- Spiritual Fads
- "All the gifts but no Presence"

Drawing near to God (Heb.4:16; 10:19-22)

- Remember (Rev.2:4-5; Ps.42:1-4)
- Repentance (James 4:8; Ps.24:3-4; Isa.55:6-7)
- Giving time and priority to the relationship (Ps.27:4; Ps.63:1-2, 6-8; Isa.26:9; Prov.2:1-5)
- Come before His presence with singing (Ps.100:2; Eph.5:18-19)
- Wait for His self-revelation (Isa.8:17; Ps.27:8-9; Matt.11:27; 16:17; Ps.27:14; Isa.40:31)
- Establish awareness of dependence (Ps.73:28)
- Maintain meticulous gratitude (Ps.100:4; Eph.5:20; 1 Thess.5:18)
- Practice the Presence of God: Be conversational in prayer (1 Thess.5:17; Neh.5:19; 6:14; 13:14, 29, 31)
- Meditate of God and His word (Ps.1:1-3; 4:4; 63:6; 77:6; 119:148)
- Right the wrongs between you and others (Matt.5:23-24)

Live a God-conscious life

- Seeing Him in circumstances (Jonah 1:10-12; John 21:4-7; Luke 24:30-31, 35))
- Seeing Him in others' needs (Matt.25:31-46)