

It's Time to Get Closer to God Today

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

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There is a feeling that every believer knows, but few admit. It is not a feeling of rebellion or anger. It is a feeling of distance. You wake up one day and realize that God feels far away. You haven't stopped believing. You haven't stopped going to church. You haven't committed a terrible crime. But the fire that once burned in your chest has cooled down to an ember. The prayers that used to be vibrant conversations now feel like a chore. The Bible, which used to be a feast, now feels like a textbook. You feel like a satellite that has drifted out of orbit—technically still circling, but cold, dark, and disconnected.

We often think that distance from God is caused by a "blowout"—a massive sin or a crisis. But more often, distance is caused by a "drift." It is the slow, silent, and subtle current of the world pulling you away from the shore of His presence, inch by inch. And because it is slow, you don't notice it until you are lost at sea.

But today is a turning point. The Holy Spirit is issuing an invitation—and a warning. The invitation is that the door is open. The warning is that you cannot afford to stay out in the cold any longer. You were created for intimacy, not just theology. You were created to know Him, not just know about Him. Today, we are going to walk through the seven steps of return. We are going to dismantle the barriers of shame, distraction, and busyness. We are going to learn how to stop the drift and drop the anchor. It is time to come home.

Number 1: The Law of the Drift — Why You Feel Far Away

Hebrews 2:1 gives us a critical warning: "We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away." The Bible never warns us about "suddenly teleporting" away from God. It warns us about drifting. Drifting is dangerous because it is pleasant. You don't feel a drift. It happens when you stop rowing. It happens when you get comfortable.

The world is a river flowing towards destruction, distraction, and self. If you do nothing—if you just "go with the flow"—you will naturally move away from God. Closeness to God requires upstream swimming. It requires intentionality. The reason you feel far away today is likely not because you ran away, but because you stopped rowing. You stopped the daily discipline of seeking His face. You let the current of life take over.

To get closer to God today, you must first admit the drift. You have to look at the shoreline and realize how far you have moved. You have to say, "Lord, I didn't intend to leave, but I have let other things take Your place." Acknowledging the distance is the first step to closing the gap.

Number 2: The Reciprocity Principle — You Move First

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James 4:8 contains one of the most powerful conditional promises in Scripture: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." Notice the order. We often wait for God to "zap" us with a feeling. We sit back and say, "Well, if God wants to be close to me, He knows where I am."

But God says, "I am already here. I tore the veil. I sent the Son. I gave the Spirit. The next move is yours." God is a Gentleman; He will not force intimacy on you. He waits for your hunger. He waits for you to make the first move. The moment you take one step toward Him—in prayer, in repentance, in worship—He takes a giant leap toward you.

The Prodigal Son had to turn around and start walking home **before** the Father ran to meet him. If you are waiting for a "feeling" to strike you, you will wait forever. You must act your way into the feeling. You must open the Bible when you don't feel like it. You must pray when you are tired. That act of obedience is the signal that draws the presence of God down.

Number 3: The Danger of the "Martha Mind" — The Idol of Busyness

The greatest enemy of intimacy in the 21st century is not the devil; it is the schedule. We are too busy to be holy. We are like Martha in Luke 10:40—"distracted by all the preparations." Martha wasn't doing bad things; she was doing **good** things. She was serving Jesus! But she was so busy serving Him that she missed Him.

Jesus told her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better." Mary sat at His feet. That was the "one thing."

To get closer to God today, you have to ruthlessly eliminate hurry. You cannot multitask a relationship with the Creator of the Universe. You cannot scroll through social media and pray at the same time. You have to stop. You have to create a "sanctuary of silence" in your day. The devil loves to keep you noisy because he knows that God speaks in a "still small voice." If you are always running, you will never hear Him. Slow down. The dishes can wait. The emails can wait. The King is in the room.

Number 4: The Veil is Torn — Stop Standing Outside

Many of us keep our distance from God because of a subconscious belief that we are unworthy. We feel like we have to "clean ourselves up" before we can enter His presence. We treat God like a dignitary that we can only visit when we are wearing our best clothes.

But Hebrews 10:19-22 tells us we have "confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his flesh." When Jesus

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died, the veil in the temple ripped from top to bottom. The "Keep Out" sign was removed.

God is not looking for your perfection; He is looking for your presence. He knows you are messy. He knows you have struggles. That is why Jesus paid the price of admission for you. To stand outside the door of intimacy because you feel "unworthy" is actually an insult to the cross. It is saying that Jesus' payment wasn't enough. Walk in. Not because you are good, but because He is the Door.

Number 5: The Secret Place — The Geography of Intimacy

Jesus gave us a specific location for getting closer to God. In Matthew 6:6, He says, "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen." The King James Version calls it the "closet."

Why a closet? Why a closed door? Because intimacy requires privacy. You cannot be intimate with your spouse in a crowded shopping mall. You need a space where you are stripped of your public persona. In the secret place, you aren't "Pastor," you aren't "Mom," you aren't "Employee of the Month." You are just a naked soul before a Holy God.

If you want to get closer to God today, you need a physical space and a specific time. You need to shut the door on the world. The closed door tells your body and your mind, "This time is set apart." It tells God, "I am shutting out everything else because I value You more than the world." The rewards of the secret place are public power and inner peace.

Number 6: The Honest Pour — Wrestling Instead of Performing

Often, we feel distant from God because our prayers are fake. We pray what we think we *should* say, instead of what is actually in our hearts. We say, "Lord, I just praise you," when our heart is screaming, "Lord, I am disappointed and angry!"

Look at the Psalms. David yells, cries, complains, and questions God. And God called him "a man after My own heart." Why? Because David was *real*. God cannot heal the fake you. He cannot be close to a mask.

To get closer to God today, drop the religious language. If you are hurt, tell Him. If you are bored, tell Him. If you are doubting, tell Him. He can handle your honesty. In fact, He craves it. The moment you get real is the moment the relationship becomes real. Intimacy is built on truth. Pour out your heart like water before the Lord (Lamentations 2:19).

Number 7: The Transformation of Beholding — The Mirror Effect

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Why is it so important to get closer? Is it just to feel better? No. It is to *become* better. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory."

This is the spiritual law of exposure: You become what you behold. When Moses spent 40 days on the mountain with God, he didn't come down with just commandments; he came down with a shining face. He had absorbed the radiation of God's glory.

If you are struggling with sin, with anger, with anxiety, the solution is not just to "try harder." The solution is to get closer. You cannot stand next to a fire and not get warm. You cannot stand in the presence of God and not be changed. The closer you get to Him, the more the things of the world will "grow strangely dim." The sins that used to attract you will start to disgust you because you have tasted something better.

Conclusion

The distance you feel today is not a permanent condition; it is a temporary invitation. The Father is waiting on the porch. The ring is ready. The robe is ready. The table is set.

We have recognized the Drift, accepted the Reciprocity Principle, and rejected the Martha Mindset. We have walked through the Torn Veil, entered the Secret Place, poured out an Honest Prayer, and committed to the Transformation of Beholding.

Do not let this day end the way it began. Do not go to sleep tonight with that cold distance in your chest. Put down the phone. Turn off the TV. Go into your room. Close the door. And whisper His name. He is closer than your next breath.