

# This Is What It Feels Like When God Is Drawing You Closer

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

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## This Is What It Feels Like When God Is Drawing You Closer

There is a profound, often misunderstood shift that happens in the human soul when the Creator of the universe decides it is time to capture your attention. It does not always arrive with a dramatic parting of the clouds, a booming voice from the heavens, or a lightning bolt of sudden revelation. More often, the drawing of God is subtle, persistent, and deeply internal. It begins as a whisper in the spirit, an invisible tug on the heartstrings that disrupts the rhythm of your ordinary life. You might find yourself sitting in the middle of a crowded room, surrounded by laughter and conversation, yet feeling an overwhelming sense of isolation, as if you belong somewhere else. You might be achieving the goals you set for yourself—climbing the corporate ladder, building the perfect family, acquiring the things you always thought would bring happiness—only to discover that the finish line is made of smoke. The trophies you worked so hard to win suddenly seem hollow. This is not a mid-life crisis, and it is not a season of depression. This is the magnetic pull of the Holy Spirit. And before we dive in, if this message is already stirring something in you, hit the subscribe button and stay connected to God's Word daily, because we believe that truth sets us free. Jesus said in John 6:44, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." This singular verse unlocks the mystery of what you are experiencing. You are not searching for God in a vacuum; God is actively wooing you. He is the initiator of the relationship. He is the Hound of Heaven, pursuing your soul with a relentless love. Many believers and seekers alike misinterpret the symptoms of this divine drawing. They mistake the spiritual symptoms for emotional instability or circumstantial bad luck. They feel the disruption and try to medicate it with more entertainment, more work, or more relationships. But the ache remains because the ache is holy. It is the signature of the Almighty pressing upon your life. God is preparing you for a transition. He is uprooting you from the shallow soil of the world so He can plant you by the living waters of His presence. He is transitioning you from a fan of Jesus to a follower of Jesus, from a casual observer of faith to a carrier of His glory. Today, we are going to walk through the exact, biblical sensations and experiences that occur when God is drawing you closer to Himself. By understanding these signs, you can stop fighting the process and start leaning into the embrace of the Father. You can move from confusion to clarity. Open your heart to the Word of God today, because the very fact that you are listening to this message is evidence that His hand is upon you, drawing you deeper into the secret place.

### Number 1: The Ache of Holy Dissatisfaction

The very first sensation you will experience when God is drawing you closer is a profound sense of dissatisfaction with the things of this world. This is not a cynical, bitter dissatisfaction that leads to

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despair; it is a "holy" dissatisfaction. It is the sudden realization that the water from the wells of this earth cannot quench the deep thirst of your soul. You can look at the book of Ecclesiastes to see the ultimate description of this feeling. King Solomon had everything a human being could possibly desire: unlimited wealth, absolute power, boundless entertainment, and unrivaled wisdom. He pursued pleasure in architecture, music, relationships, and wine. Yet, his conclusion was haunting: "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity and a striving after wind" (Ecclesiastes 1:2). When God begins to draw you, He removes the illusion of fulfillment that the world offers. The things that used to excite you—the weekend parties, the gossip, the pursuit of status—begin to taste like ash.

This happens because God is expanding your spiritual capacity. C.S. Lewis famously said, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." God placed eternity in the human heart (Ecclesiastes 3:11). When He draws you closer, that eternal capacity begins to awaken. A soul that is waking up to eternity cannot be satisfied with temporary things. It is like trying to feed a starving lion with a blade of grass; it is simply not in its nature to be sustained by it. You might find yourself turning off the television because the shows seem trivial. You might log off social media because the constant comparison and curated lives feel fake and exhausting. This is the Holy Spirit disconnecting your spiritual umbilical cord from the world system.

In the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15, the young man had to reach the pigpen before he realized his true condition. He was eating the pods meant for the pigs, and "no one gave him anything." It was in that moment of utter dissatisfaction and emptiness that he "came to himself" and remembered his father's house. God will often allow the pigpens of our lives—the broken promises of the world—to lose their appeal so that we will come to our senses. If you are feeling a deep, unshakeable boredom with sin and secular pursuits, do not panic. Do not try to find a new hobby to distract yourself. Acknowledge what is happening. God is drying up the artificial streams so that you will be forced to search for the River of Life.

This dissatisfaction also manifests as a longing for substance. You start to crave deep conversations. You want to talk about the meaning of life, the nature of God, and the condition of the human soul. Shallow small talk becomes almost painful. You find yourself gazing at the stars at night, filled with a sense of wonder and smallness, asking the big questions: "Why am I here? What is my purpose?" This philosophical and spiritual curiosity is planted by the Holy Spirit. He is stirring the waters of your intellect and your emotions, preparing you to receive the heavy, glorious truth of the Gospel. He is making you hungry so He can feed you.

Furthermore, this ache often feels like homesickness for a place you have never been. The

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German word *\*sehnsucht\** captures this well—an inconsolable longing for an unknown shore. Christians know that this shore is the presence of God. When Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, they walked with God in the cool of the day. There was perfect communion. Deep in the DNA of your spirit, there is a memory of that Eden, a memory of being fully known and fully loved without shame. When God draws you, He activates that memory. He makes you homesick for His presence. The discomfort you feel is the tension between where you are (the fallen world) and where you belong (His presence).

It is crucial not to misdiagnose this condition. Psychologists might call it an existential crisis. Friends might say you are going through a phase. But the Word of God calls it the drawing of the Father. If you feel this holy dissatisfaction, the best response is not to change your external circumstances—changing jobs or moving cities will not fix an internal longing. The best response is to turn your eyes upward. Say to the Lord, "I feel this emptiness, and I know only You can fill it. Draw me, and I will run after You." This ache is the invitation to the greatest romance your soul will ever know.

## Number 2: A Sudden and Sharp Sensitivity to Sin

The second undeniable sign that God is drawing you closer is a heightened sensitivity to sin. Before the Holy Spirit begins this deep work, we often live in a state of moral numbness. We commit "acceptable" sins—white lies, gossip, pride, lustful thoughts, impatience—and we brush them off easily. We compare ourselves to worse people and justify our behavior. But when you step closer to the Light, the shadows become starkly visible. When God draws you into His presence, He is drawing you into absolute holiness. 1 John 1:5 declares, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." As you approach that Light, the previously hidden blemishes of your character are exposed.

Consider the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah chapter 6. He was a good man, a prophet of God. But when he saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of his robe filled the temple, his immediate reaction was not one of pride. He did not say, "Look at me, I'm so spiritual, I get to see God." His reaction was one of absolute terror at his own sinfulness. He cried out, "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Proximity to God always produces an acute awareness of our own inadequacy.

When God is drawing you, your conscience becomes tender. Things that you used to watch on television without a second thought now make you cringe. The lyrics of songs you used to sing

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along to suddenly feel toxic to your spirit. A harsh word spoken to a family member, which you previously would have justified as "just blowing off steam," now grieves you deeply. You might find yourself apologizing for things you said years ago. This is not the devil condemning you; this is the Holy Spirit convicting you. Condemnation says, "You are a bad person, and God is angry at you." Conviction says, "This behavior is beneath your identity as a child of God, and it is hindering our relationship. Let it go."

If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week. This sensitivity is a beautiful gift, though it feels painful at first. It is like the returning of circulation to a limb that has been asleep; the pins and needles hurt, but it means the tissue is coming back to life. A dead heart does not feel the weight of sin. A heart of stone does not care if it offends God. But Ezekiel 36:26 promises, "I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." A heart of flesh feels the prick of the Spirit. It is responsive. It is tender.

You will also find that you can no longer "enjoy" sin. You might fall into an old habit, but the pleasure is gone, replaced immediately by a heavy, sorrowful conviction. You realize that sin is not just breaking a rule; it is breaking the heart of the One who loves you most. Psalm 51:4 becomes the cry of your heart, as David prayed, "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight." You begin to see sin not as a list of "do's and don'ts," but as a relational betrayal. This shift in perspective is the hallmark of someone who is walking closely with God.

Furthermore, this sensitivity extends to the sin in the world around you. You develop a righteous grief over injustice, corruption, and the lost state of humanity. When Jesus looked over Jerusalem, He wept because they did not know the time of their visitation. As God draws you closer, He shares His heart with you. You begin to weep over the things that make God weep. You see the brokenness of the world not with self-righteous judgment, but with deep compassion. This is the heart of Christ being formed in you.

Do not run from this conviction. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness. When the spotlight of the Holy Spirit reveals the dirt in the corners of your heart, it is not so God can shame you; it is so He can wash you. He wants to make you a pure vessel, fit for the Master's use. Confess quickly, repent sincerely, and rest in the grace that covers every failure. The closer you get to God, the more you will realize how much you need Jesus, and that is exactly where God wants you.

Number 3: An Unquenchable Hunger for the Living Word

When God draws you closer, the Bible undergoes a miraculous transformation in your hands. It

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shifts from being a dry, ancient history book or a rigid set of moral codes into the living, breathing Word of God. You develop an unquenchable hunger for Scripture. You are no longer reading the Bible just to check off a box on a religious to-do list; you are reading it for survival. Job 23:12 captures this desperation perfectly: "I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food." You begin to feel that if you do not get into the Word, your spirit will starve.

This hunger is initiated by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:14 tells us that the natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Before God draws you, the Bible seems confusing, contradictory, and boring. But when the Spirit of God activates your mind, the veil is lifted. Suddenly, verses you have heard a hundred times leap off the page and pierce your heart. You see connections between the Old and New Testaments that you never noticed before. The words become personal. It feels as if the Author of the book is sitting right next to you, highlighting the exact truths you need for your current situation.

You find yourself waking up early just to have quiet time in the Scriptures. You listen to the Bible on your commute instead of the radio. You search for sermons and teachings that explain the deep theological truths of God. Psalm 1:2 describes the blessed man as one whose "delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." This becomes your reality. Meditation here does not mean emptying your mind; it means filling your mind with the Word of God, chewing on it, pondering it, and allowing it to reshape your worldview.

This immersion in the Word begins to change the way you think. Romans 12:2 calls this the "renewing of your mind." You start to view your finances, your relationships, your career, and your struggles through the lens of Scripture. When a crisis hits, your first response is no longer panic; your first response is a Bible verse. You start quoting promises over your life. "No weapon formed against me shall prosper." "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." "My God shall supply all my needs." The Word of God becomes the sword of the Spirit in your hand, and you learn how to fight the lies of the enemy with the truth of God.

Moreover, this hunger drives you to obedience. Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." As the Word reveals the beauty and majesty of Christ, your love for Him grows, and obedience becomes a joy rather than a burden. You want to align your life with the text. If the Bible says forgive, you forgive. If the Bible says give, you give. You no longer look for loopholes in the Scripture to justify your flesh; you look for the grace to conform to the image of Christ. The Word becomes a mirror (James 1:23) that shows you who you really are and who you

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are destined to be in Christ.

If you are experiencing this voracious appetite for truth, feed it. Do not let the busyness of life crowd out your time in the Word. Guard your Bible study time fiercely. The enemy will do everything he can to distract you because he knows that a Christian armed with the Word of God is an unstoppable force in the spiritual realm. Let the Word dwell in you richly. Let it saturate your thoughts. The closer you draw to God, the more you will love the Book that reveals His character.

## Number 4: The Magnetic Pull Toward Solitude

As God draws you into His inner circle, you will feel a strong, magnetic pull toward solitude and silence. In a culture that is terrified of being alone, this can feel alarming. People might ask you why you are "isolating" yourself. But this is not isolation; it is insulation. It is the desire to disconnect from the chaos of the world in order to connect with the Creator. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus modeling this behavior. Luke 5:16 tells us, "But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray." If the Son of God needed to escape the crowds, the demands of ministry, and the noise of the world to commune with the Father, how much more do we need it?

This pull to solitude is God's invitation to the Secret Place. Psalm 91:1 says, "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." The Secret Place is not a physical location; it is a spiritual posture. It is that quiet room in your house, that park bench early in the morning, or that silent drive with the radio off where you meet with God. When God is drawing you, the noise of the world becomes irritating. The constant chatter, the notifications, the endless stream of information—it all feels like static that is blocking the signal of heaven. You crave the silence because it is in the silence that God speaks loudest.

In solitude, the masks come off. You cannot perform when no one is watching. You do not have to be the strong parent, the capable employee, or the perfect Christian. You can just be a child. You can weep before the Lord without worrying about what people think. You can pour out your fears, your doubts, and your heartbreaks. It was when Jacob was left alone in Genesis 32 that he wrestled with the Angel of the Lord. He sent his family and his possessions across the river, and "Jacob was left alone." It was in that lonely place that his name was changed from Jacob (the deceiver) to Israel (having power with God). Your greatest spiritual transformations will always happen when you are alone with God.

If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week. This desire for solitude also purifies your prayer life. When you pray in public or with others, there is always the temptation to use fancy words or sound spiritual. But in the closet, with the door shut

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(Matthew 6:6), your prayers become raw, honest, and powerful. You stop giving God a theological speech and start having a conversation with your Father. This intimacy is the ultimate goal of the Christian life. God does not just want your service; He wants your fellowship. He wants to walk with you in the cool of the day.

Furthermore, solitude builds spiritual strength. Solitude is the gymnasium of the soul. When you are alone with God, He infuses you with His power. Isaiah 40:31 promises, "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Waiting on the Lord requires stillness. It requires shutting the door on the world. The strength you need to face your giants, to overcome your temptations, and to fulfill your destiny is not found in a self-help book; it is downloaded in the Secret Place.

Do not fear the quiet. Do not let the enemy convince you that you are lonely. You are not lonely; you are alone with the King. Embrace the solitude. Carve out time in your schedule to do absolutely nothing but sit in the presence of God. Learn to be comfortable with the silence. It is in the whisper of the wind, the quiet of the morning, and the stillness of the night that God does His deepest work in the human heart.

## Number 5: The Loving Disruption of Old Relationships

One of the most painful, yet necessary, aspects of being drawn closer to God is the disruption of old relationships. As your heart changes, your environment must also change. Amos 3:3 asks a profound question: "Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet?" As you begin to agree with the Word of God, you will find yourself in disagreement with the world. Friendships that were once easy and natural will begin to feel strained. Conversations that used to be fun will feel empty. This is the friction of light entering the darkness.

God takes 2 Corinthians 6:14 very seriously: "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?" A yoke connects two animals to pull a plow. If they are unequally yoked—one strong, one weak; one fast, one slow—they will walk in circles and the work will not get done. When God is calling you to a higher spiritual plane, He cannot allow you to remain yoked to people who are content living in the mud. He will lovingly, but firmly, begin to prune your relational tree.

This pruning process hurts. You might experience misunderstandings with friends. People might drift away for no apparent reason. You might even face outright rejection or mocking from family members who do not understand your newfound devotion to Christ. They might call you "too

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religious" or accuse you of acting superior. Remember the words of Jesus in John 15:18-19: "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

This disruption is God's protection. He knows that "bad company ruins good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33). He knows that if you stay in those toxic environments, you will eventually be pulled back into the old ways of living. He is rescuing you from the influence of the ungodly. Think of Abraham. The very first command God gave Abraham in Genesis 12 was to leave his country, his kindred, and his father's house. God had to separate Abraham from his idol-worshipping family before He could make him the father of faith. Elevation requires separation.

As God removes the wrong people from your life, He makes room for the right people. He will begin to connect you with other believers who are running the same race. He will bring mentors, prayer partners, and spiritual brothers and sisters into your path who will encourage you, challenge you, and hold you accountable. These new relationships are forged in the fire of the Holy Spirit, and they are stronger than any bond the world can offer. You will find a new family in the Body of Christ. So, if you are grieving the loss of friends, trust the Master Gardener. He prunes the branches not to kill the tree, but to produce more fruit.

## Number 6: A Burden for Prayer and Intercession

When God draws you into His presence, He begins to share His burdens with you. You will notice a dramatic shift in your prayer life. In the beginning of our Christian walk, our prayers are often self-centered. We pray the "gimme" prayers: "Lord, give me a better job, give me health, give me peace, bless my family." There is nothing wrong with asking God for our needs, but as you grow closer to Him, your perspective widens. You begin to pray Kingdom prayers. You move from petition to intercession.

You will find yourself burdened for people you don't even know. You might be watching the news and suddenly feel a wave of grief for a nation in crisis, leading you to your knees. You might walk past a stranger on the street and feel an urge to pray for their salvation. The Holy Spirit is recruiting you into the ministry of intercession. Romans 8:26 explains this mystery: "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." God uses your yielded heart as a conduit for His power to enter the earth.

This burden for prayer often takes the form of spiritual warfare. You realize that the battles in your

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life and in the lives of those you love are not flesh and blood issues. You begin to take authority in the name of Jesus. You start praying strategically. You bind the works of the enemy and loose the provision of heaven (Matthew 18:18). You put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6) and stand in the gap. You become a watchman on the wall for your family, your church, and your city.

Think of Nehemiah. When he heard that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the gates were burned with fire, he didn't just feel sorry for the people. Nehemiah 1:4 says, "As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven." That is the heart of an intercessor. The condition of the church and the lost world breaks your heart, and it drives you to the altar. You cannot be content with "business as usual" Christianity. You cry out for revival. You cry out for the prodigals to come home.

This is a high and holy calling. God is trusting you with His secrets. Amos 3:7 says, "For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets." When you are close to God, He whispers His intentions to you so that you can partner with Him in prayer. Your prayers become the tracks upon which the train of God's will rides into history. If you are feeling this heavy, beautiful burden to pray, do not ignore it. Yield to it. It is the heartbeat of God echoing in your chest.

## Number 7: An Anchor of Unshakeable Peace

The final and most comforting sensation of being drawn closer to God is the settling of an unexplainable, unshakeable peace over your soul. After the disruptions, the convictions, the isolation, and the hunger, you arrive at the harbor of His presence. This is not the peace that the world gives. The world's peace is dependent on circumstances: if the bank account is full, the health is good, and the relationships are happy, the world is at peace. But the moment a storm hits, that peace evaporates.

The peace of God is independent of the storm. Philippians 4:7 describes it as "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, [which] will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." It surpasses understanding because it does not make sense to the natural mind. You could be facing a financial crisis, a medical diagnosis, or a season of intense grief, yet deep within your spirit, there is a calmness that cannot be shaken. You are anchored to the Rock of Ages.

This is the peace that Jesus had when He was asleep in the bottom of the boat during a raging tempest (Mark 4). The disciples were terrified, bailing water and screaming that they were going to die. But Jesus was asleep on a cushion. Why? Because He was perfectly connected to the Father. He knew that His destiny was not to drown in the Sea of Galilee, but to die on the Cross of Calvary.

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When you are close to God, you know that your life is in His hands. You know that no weapon formed against you can prosper. You know that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

This peace changes the way you live. Fear loses its grip on you. Anxiety melts away in the light of God's sovereignty. You stop worrying about tomorrow because you know Who holds tomorrow. You can smile at the future. You become a stabilizer in a chaotic world. When others are panicking, your presence brings calmness because you carry the Prince of Peace inside you. People will look at your life and wonder how you handle the pressure with such grace. This becomes your greatest testimony.

This peace is the ultimate confirmation that you are exactly where you are supposed to be. It is the smile of the Father over your life. It is the assurance that your sins are forgiven, your past is redeemed, and your future is secure. You have found your true home. You are hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). The search is over. The striving has ceased. You are loved, you are known, and you are held by the Creator of the universe.

## Conclusion

We have journeyed through the seven powerful experiences that define the season when God is drawing you closer. We have explored the ache of holy dissatisfaction, the sharp sensitivity to sin, the unquenchable hunger for the Living Word, the magnetic pull toward solitude, the loving disruption of old relationships, the burden for prayer and intercession, and the anchor of unshakeable peace. These are the mile markers on the road to intimacy with the Almighty.

If you have recognized these signs in your own life, rejoice! You are the apple of God's eye. He has not forgotten you. In fact, He is pursuing you with a passion that is beyond human comprehension. Do not resist the pull. Let go of the things of this world that are holding you back. Open your hands and surrender to the process. The conviction may sting, the isolation may feel lonely, and the loss of the familiar may bring grief, but the reward is infinitely greater. The reward is God Himself.

To know Him, to walk with Him, and to be filled with His Spirit is the highest privilege of the human existence. You were created for this communion. Step into the Secret Place. Open the Word. Fall to your knees. The King is waiting for you with open arms. He is ready to transform your life from the inside out and use you for His glorious Kingdom.

Before you go, make sure to subscribe, like this video, and share it with someone who needs encouragement today. And join us next time as we uncover another powerful truth from God's

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