

YOUR DISTANT GOD

Isaiah 4:8 ... "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you..."

You may not like today's title, but it does reflect what many believers feel about their relationship with their Heavenly Father. I have heard many Christians say that God feels far from them, or that he seems distant and inaccessible. There are a couple of reasons for this. First, some people never develop a relationship with God after being born again. They see their Christianity like some people see marriage. They say "I do" at the altar, then continue to live as if they are still single; hanging out with the boys or the girls, instead of spending time at home and building a solid relationship with their new spouse. Many marriages fail because of this, and many Christians lapse into old lifestyles when they selfishly spend more time with other people.

A second reason that God might seem far off for a Christian, is that he or she wants God to keep his distance; it is an intentional effort by the believer to keep out of God's reach; they think they can keep secrets from God and play the church game while living like they belong in hell.

Living a life separate from intimacy with Christ, is no way to live. In fact, it may be no better than the way you were living before you became a Christian. Being born again is not a magic-wand moment when everything in your life instantly goes from bad to good, from lonely to cozy, or from sad to happy. Being born again is supposed to be the first step in a life of greater joy and fulfillment, followed by more steps you intentionally take to make God the center of your life and, therefore, the seed of better days to come. God does not drag you along against your will, nor does he push you in the direction he wants you to go. Instead, he opens doors, provides opportunities, and gives you tests to help develop your walk with Christ.

Our verse today says it all. If you will draw near to God, he will draw near to you. You must take the first step. You must want an authentic, life-changing relationship with Christ. God will not force it upon you, nor compel you.

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