

DEVELOPING A LIFE OF PRAYER
EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH
2021-2022 (April 13, 2022)
“DRAWING CLOSE TO GOD FOR PRAYER”
PSALM 100:1-5

I. MOTIVATIONS TO PRAY

- A. Fear - real or perceived danger external or internal*
- B. Uncertainty/anxiety*
- C. Facing consequences of wrongdoing*
- D. Confession of sin*
- E. Felt need for another person in trouble or danger*
- F. Facing a great want or need*
- G. Ritual or duty*
- H. Grief or loss*

*But what about when everything seems to be going just as you
would like for it to?*

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

- A. God is a person and committed to relationships; the Trinity is the original and model relationship; it is the one upon which all others have been built.*
- B. Near to God is the safest and most wonderful “place” in the entire cosmos; it does not require changing one’s geography; it is the place of life and living; it is that for which we were created*
- C. Alienation or separation from God is the definition of eternal death*
- D. Alienation whether intentional or out of neglect results in the same effect.*
- E. God is to be loved by the totality of our being for who He IS not simply for what we can get from Him. He is already the provider (we call that Providence). He sees ahead and makes the needed supplies to have the needs met. But He is so much more.*
- F. Our ignorance of Him and His ways make us want to keep our distance from Him*

G. Drawing near to God is simple, so simple in fact, that few do it. It is performed by those who act simply and drop religious pretenses.

Let's look at what the psalmist taught us about it.

III. STEPS TO DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

A. Step one: WANT TO!

In our context here, the psalmist is proceeding toward the temple or tabernacle, the central place of God's manifestation or self-revelation; that is the imagery of the gates and courts. He is walking to the temple where God's presence can be found. He is not looking through powerful binoculars or from some distance; he is not writing some poetry about what might have been; he is walking into the presence of God at what he knows is God's invitation.

He is showing the intention of going to be with God. He knows he is not a priest so he may not be able to get to the Mercy Seat but he will get as close as he can. He knows that access to God is open to him and that God desires him to draw as close to Him as He can. James, in the New Testament, told us that if we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. (Jam 4:8) So the psalmist is making the move to get to God - because he WANTS TO!

Do you want to? Or do you want to just leave Him alone and not "bother" him with the small things of your life, the things you can do for yourself?

B. Step two: LIVEN UP YOUR ATTITUDE

A. Look at all the verbs of attitude control for life:

Joyful shout - getting out of your stoic control and letting yourself go enough to shout

Glad service - service because you want Him to be pleased

Singing in His presence - letting Him know you are happy with Him

Exalting Him above all other things because of your convinced certainty that you belong to Him and He belongs to you

Genuine thanksgiving - you have thought it through and you have seen your life is not just a series of happenstances but a thoughtful, providentially guided journey with a great Father whose love is perfect and unconditional; be thankful to Him - tell Him about what comes from your heart

Sincere praise - you have considered what is said of God and have seen it demonstrated in your life. He really does have a character worthy of honor; bless His name

C. Step three: TELL THE TRUTH

The LORD IS good!

To you, these are not just sweet words you SHOULD say! These are truths you WANT to say because you know them to be true!

His mercy IS EVERLASTING

You have experienced His mercy:

Kindness when you did not deserve it at all;

Love when everyone else was disappointed with you;

Hope when every door had been closed to you

Consistently letting you start again for the umpteenth time

Inexhaustible forgiveness in spite of losses due to consequences of failure

His TRUTH ENDURES to all generations

You know He is eternal and omniscient and never forgets; what He said today, will be true tomorrow

You know He cannot lie; He never deceives His people

You know that His truth has stood the test of time

You know that even if it hurts and you might want Him to take away what is true, He does not change; He may show mercy but He does not change the truth

HAVING DRAWN CLOSE TO HIM, NOW YOU ARE READY TO PRAY!