

5 WAYS TO START FEELING CLOSE TO GOD

God makes it clear: If you start moving towards Him, He will move towards you (James 4:8). Here are 5 things you can do to move towards God. Do not try to do all 5. Pick one and see what happens.

1. Glorify God with your life.

- I know this sounds mystical, but it simply means to do something that makes God proud of you. Glorifying God is keeping an attitude or doing a deed for no other reason than to please God. The Bible explains what attitudes and activities please God. Discover them and then do them. For this to work, you must make sure you are practicing a Biblical attitude or doing a Biblical activity only for God's pleasure and your desire to be closer to Him.
- Here are some ideas to get you started: Be humble, Be grateful, Be generous, Forgive someone, Be kind/loving expecting nothing in return, Be patient

2. Build relationships with people who are committed to following Christ.

- God lives in people who have received the grace offered through Jesus Christ. Christian friendship is more than a social network. It is a spiritual connectedness that allows God's people to give and receive God's presence to one another in the daily routines of life.
- Here are some ideas to get you started: Attend a small group, Go on a mission trip, Volunteer to be a part of a ministry team, Volunteer with other believers to meet a specific need in the community

3. Read and apply God's Word to your life.

- Don't just start reading the Bible. Read it and then put into practice what you read. It is completely okay to read a good devotional publication when reading the Bible (just don't skip reading the actual Bible verses). If you are not familiar with the Bible, I actually encourage you to use a devotional publication.
- Here are some good devotional publications: Our Daily Bread (odb.org), The Bible App (bible.com), navigators.org, The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For by Rick Warren, The One Year Uncommon Life Daily Challenge by Tony Dungy

4. Cultivate a ministry into your life routine.

- Basically, this means to start intentionally and habitually serving others for the purpose of expressing God's love to them. If you have received God's grace, God's love resides in you. The best way to experience more of His love is to sacrificially and unconditionally share it with someone else by serving them. Fortunately, there are literally thousands of ways to serve someone else. Feel free to be creative, but remember—it must be sacrificial, unconditional, and for the purpose of sharing God's love.
- Here are some ideas to get started: host a small group in your home, volunteer to serve children or students at a local church, serve the homeless, help refugees in your area, use a skill or talent you possess to help the local church

5. Expand God's Influence by sharing your faith in Jesus

- If God is changing your life, tell someone. If God has answered a prayer, tell someone. If someone in your circle is afraid, discouraged, or feeling hopeless tell them how your relationship with God through Jesus helped you when you felt that way. Don't have reservations about telling others how the living God is encouraging you, empowering you, or directing your life.
- Here are some ideas to get started: Pray with someone after listening to them share their trouble, Share your favorite faith based song with a friend and explain to them why the lyrics encourage you, Digitally share an online sermon with a friend that encouraged you and then talk to them about it, Tell someone how you came know Jesus, Financially support someone who is telling others about Jesus, Consistently pray for someone who is sharing their faith.