

Draw Near to God

Psalm 73:28 But it is good for me **to draw near to God**: I have put my trust in the Lord **GOD**, that I may declare all thy works.

James 4:8 **Draw nigh** to God, and he will **draw nigh** to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Hebrews 10:22 Let us **draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Now we are said to be near to God in divers degrees...

1st When our **understanding is enlightened**; and so the young man speaking discreetly in things concerning God, is said not to be far from the kingdom of God, Mark 12:34.

2nd **In minding**: when God is present to our minds, so that the soul is said to be present to that which it mindeth; contrarily it is said of the wicked, that "God is not in all their thoughts," Ps 10:4.

3rd **When the will upon the discovery of the understanding comes to choose the better part, and is drawn from that choice to cleave to him**, as it was said of Jonathan's heart, "it was knit to David," 1 Sam 18:1.

4th When **our whole affections are carried to God**, loving him as the chief good. **Love** is the firstborn affection. That breeds desire of communion with God. Thence comes joy in him, so that the soul pants after God, "as the hart after the water springs," Ps 41:1.

5th **When the soul is touched with the Spirit of God working faith**, stirring up dependence, confidence, and trust on God. Hence ariseth sweet communion. The soul is never at **rest** till it rests on him. Then it is afraid to break with him or to displease him; but it groweth zealous and resolute, and hot in love, stiff in good cases; resolute against the enemies. And yet this is not all, for God will have also the outward man, so as the whole man must present itself before God in word, in sacraments; speak of him and to him with reverence, and yet with strength of affection mounting up in prayer, as in a fiery chariot; hear him speak to us; consulting with his oracles; fetching comforts against distresses, directions against maladies.

6th We draw near to him **when we praise him**; for this is the work of the souls departed and the angels in heaven, that are continually near unto him. The prophet here saith, "It is good for me." How came he to know this? Why, he had found it by experience, and by it he was thoroughly convinced.