

### Key Scripture

Proverbs 18:24 TLB

There are "friends" who pretend to be friends,  
but there is **a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**

### Drawing near to God?

Matthew 15:6-8 AMP

6 So for the sake of your tradition (the rules handed down by your forefathers), you have set aside the Word of God [depriving it of force and authority and making it of no effect].

7 You pretenders (hypocrites)! Admirably and truly did Isaiah prophesy of you when he said: 8 **These people draw near Me with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts hold off and are far away from Me.**

### What keeps us from drawing near to God?

#### ✓ **Religious Traditions**

Acts 26:9 NLT

"**I used to believe** that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene.

#### ✓ **Unyielding spirit**

Isaiah 63:10 TNIV

Yet **they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit.**

So He turned and became their enemy and He himself fought against them.

#### ✓ **Intellectual Understanding**

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NIV

4 **My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words,** but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

#### ✓ **Unconfessed sin.**

Ephesians 4:30-31 NLT

30 And **do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live.**

Remember, He has identified you as His own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. 31 **Get rid of all** bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.

#### ✓ **Fear**

2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV

For **God has not given us a spirit of fear,** but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Closer

### Drawing Near

John 14:15-16 NKJV

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another Helper,** that He may abide with you forever —

**Helper:** parakletos (par-ak'-lay-tos) intercessor, counselor, advocate, comforter  
**para (par-ah'):** very close    **kletos (klay-tos')** invited, appointed.

### Getting Closer

#### 1. Skin Deep: **Seeing** relationship.

John 20:26-29 NIV

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "**Peace be with you!**"

27 Then he said to Thomas, "**Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.**" 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my

God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "**Because you have seen me, you have believed;**

**blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**"

#### 2. Personal: **Soul** relationship.

James 4:8 NLT

**Come close to God, and God will come close to you.** Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

1 Timothy 4:8 NLT

"Physical training is good, but **training for godliness is much better,** promising benefits in this life and in the life to come."

#### 3. Intimate: **Spiritual** relationship.

1 Corinthians 2:11-12,16b NLT

11 No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. 12 And **we have received God's Spirit** (not the world's spirit), so **we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us** 16...But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

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