

NEAR

“Pastor, I don’t feel God near me. I don’t experience His presence the way many people do. Why is that?” Firstly, in the Bible the responsibility for drawing near is placed on us. James 4:8 says **“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”** The same Greek word is repeated in this verse and it implies that we must make the first approach. Since God is eternal, never-changing and absolutely consistent, we must believe that He is always accessible and within reach. If we accept the fact that the Lord is nearby, we should have the confidence to draw near. In Psalm 73:28 the psalmist declares, **“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 Your works.”** Notice the connection between intimacy and **trust**. Drawing near to God without trusting Him is pointless. For how can you be intimate with someone you don’t trust? Furthermore, as well as putting your trust in God, you must have a genuine **desire** for relationship, you must really want to be close to Him. And when you choose to draw near with that kind of attitude, God will reciprocate and draw near to you.

A good example is Moses. He had a yearning – a deep desire to meet God “face-to-face.” Moses longed for God. Moses realised that nothing else in the world could compare to the experience of being close to God. He had a passion for the Lord’s presence. Moses was not interested in anything else. He had lost his appetite for the things of this world. He was hungry for God and God alone! Here is a man who was ever ready to draw near! And guess what? God drew near to Him! So much so, that Moses had a face-to-face encounter with God. Whenever God reciprocates you can be sure that something astounding is going to happen. His divine presence will cause miraculous things to happen. The best way to cause the devil to flee in every direction is to draw near to God!

Notice the verse before (James 4:7), **“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”** Followed immediately by, **“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”** Only after we have surrendered to God, are we able to resist the devil. But what causes the devil to flee? It isn’t the fact that we have submitted ourselves to God and resisted him! It is the fact that God has drawn along side us – that God is nearby! It is the presence of God that satan is terrified of! It is God’s presence that clears the air of all demonic influences. Hence, if you are truly seeking His divine presence you must have a genuine heartfelt desire to be close to Him. You must yearn to see God “face-to-face!”

Moses was able to experience the presence of God in a post profound way, and there is no reason why you cannot do the same! However, it’s up to you to make the first approach, it’s up to you to submit, resist and then **draw near**. So why not make up your mind right now? Why not make a quality decision that you are going to take the initiative and get as close as possible to God? I guarantee that the more you do this, the more you will experience God’s presence. Then the more you experience God’s presence, the closer you will feel to the source of divine power. Therein lies the victory!