

The Nearness of God

But as for me, it is good to be near
God.

I have made the Sovereign Lord
my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.

Psalm 73:28

NIV84

KEY POINT: God is near to His people.

God is near.

The Basis for the Nearness of God

Omnipresence

“God’s omnipresence may be defined as follows: God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being, yet God acts differently in different places.”

God can be present either to punish,
to sustain, or to bless.

“...although the Bible can speak of God as being present everywhere, when the Bible says that God is “present” it usually means “present to bless.”

Genesis 26:3 Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you...

Genesis 26:24 That night the LORD appeared to [Isaac] and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you..."

Up there= transcendence
Down here=immanence

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

NIV84

Nevertheless I am continually
with thee; thou dost hold my
right hand.

Psalm 73:23–24

NIV84

“Listen to me, O house of Jacob,
all you who remain of the house of Israel,
you whom I have upheld since you were
conceived,
and have carried since your birth.
Even to your old age and gray hairs
I am he, I am he who will sustain you.
I have made you and I will carry you;
I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

Isaiah 46:3–4

NIV84

He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his
heart;
he gently leads those that have
young.

Isaiah 40:11

NIV84

To give a poor sinful soul a comfortable persuasion, affecting it throughout, in all its faculties and affections, that God in Jesus Christ loves him, delights in him, is well pleased with him, hath thoughts of tenderness and kindness towards him; to give, I say, a soul an overflowing sense hereof, is an inexpressible mercy. (Owen, John. The Essential Works Of John Owen . Kindle Edition.)

The Blessing of the Nearness of God

The Lord is near to all who call on
him,
to all who call on him in truth.

Psalm 145:18

NIV84

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

Acts 17:26–27

NIV84

If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened;

Psalm 66:18

NIV84

He who conceals his sins does not prosper,
but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Proverbs 28:13

NIV84

But your iniquities have
separated
you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face
from you,
so that he will not hear.

Isaiah 59:2

NIV84

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23–24

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Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times
of trouble?

Psalm 10:1

NIV84

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Matthew 27:46

NIV84

For his anger lasts only a
moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may remain for a night,
but rejoicing comes in the
morning.

Psalm 30:5

NIV84

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1:3–7

NIV84

The Application of the Nearness of God

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my
name, will teach you all things
and will remind you of everything
I have said to you.

John 14:26

NIV84

Draw near

Come near to God and he will
come near to you. Wash your
hands, you sinners, and purify
your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:8

NIV84

O God, you are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you,
my body longs for you,
in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.

Psalm 63:1

NIV84

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure
heart,
who does not lift up his soul to an idol
or swear by what is false.

Psalm 24:3–4

NIV84

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

NIV84

Pray

Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

Psalm 22:11

NIV84

Be not far from me, O God;
come quickly, O my God, to help
me.

Psalm 71:12

NIV84

Rehearse

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you all things and will remind
you of everything I have said to you.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give
you. I do not give to you as the world
gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled
and do not be afraid.

John 14:26–27

NIV84

“All the consolations of the Holy Ghost consist in his acquainting us with, and communicating unto us, the love of the Father and the grace of the Son...A sense of this is able not only to relieve us, but to make us in every condition to rejoice with joy unspeakable and glorious.” (Owen, John)

Day by day, and with each passing
moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials
here;
Trusting in my Father's wise
bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.

He, whose heart is kind beyond all
measure,
Gives unto each day what He deems
best,
Lovingly its part of pain and
pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day the Lord Himself is near
me,
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear and
cheer me,
He whose name is Counselor and
Pow'r.

The protection of His child and
treasure

Is a charge that on Himself He laid;

“As thy days, thy strength shall be in
measure,”

This the pledge to me He made.

Help me then, in every tribulation,
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet
consolation,
Offered me within Thy holy Word.

Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble
meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments
fleeting,
Till with Christ the Lord I stand.