



CLOSER SERIES

Part Two: Why Aren't We Closer?

"We come CLOSER to God and approach him with an open heart, fully convinced by faith that nothing will keep us at a distance from him. For our hearts have been sprinkled with blood to remove impurity and we have been freed from an accusing conscience and now we are clean, unstained, and presentable to God inside and out!" Hebrews 10:22 (TPT)

Being CLOSER to God requires an accurate
view of _____.

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." — A. W. Tozer in The Knowledge of the Holy

WHY AREN'T WE CLOSER TO GOD?

1. We have a distorted view of _____.

"He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve." Psalm 103:10 (NLT)

- As a harsh _____.
- As a distant _____.

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." Psalm 139:7-10 (NKJV)

- As a demanding _____.

"And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him." Luke 15:20 (NLT)

(Continued on reverse)

2. We have a distorted view of _____.

"Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice. If you listen to the word, but do not put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves as they are. They take a good look at themselves and then go away and at once forget what they look like." James 1:22-24 (GNT)

- We have believed the _____.

You are a child of God and He wants to
bring you _____.

- We have an inward _____.

The cure for low self-esteem comes when we
_____ to God.

- We lack real _____.

"At present we are looking at puzzling reflections in a mirror. The time will come when we shall see reality whole and face to face! At present all I know is a little fraction of the truth, but the time will come when I shall know it as fully as God now knows me!" 1 Corinthians 13:12 (JBP)

FATHER GOD, Forgive me for seeing You as anything other than a loving, redemptive Father. Help me to shift my focus from my myself and my inadequacies to You and your possibilities. Thank you for loving me and drawing me CLOSER to You through Jesus Christ.
In His Name, AMEN

GATHER, GROW and GO with us!

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