

Drawing Closer To Yahuah (God)

Do you desire to draw nearer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)? How close do you really want to get to Him? Developing a closer relationship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is an admirable goal and reflects a heart that is truly renewed, for only those who are in אֹוְיָּהּ (Yahusha) desire a closer relationship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah).

אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) created each of us with a longing for intimacy -- intimacy with Him. We must, therefore, come to some understanding of what He is asking of us and what He is offering. We must come to the realization that we were created to fellowship with our Creator. We need Him and He desires us.

“אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) desires us?” Yes! He wants us, desires us. He gave his very best He had in His only begotten Son to redeem what Adam relinquished in the Garden. And He did it for intimacy.

Intimacy never involves just one person. As the old adage goes, “It takes (2) two to tango.” אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) has gone to great lengths to dance with mankind. From the time He walked with Adam in the Garden of Eden to this day, His desire hasn't abated or changed.

So passionate was His desire after Adam and Eve sinned, He worked intensely throughout time to bring humanity back to a place of intimate communion. He gave the ultimate Gift so He might walk with us in the garden of our lives **John 3:16**. From the midst of the Garden, אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) called out to Adam. Today He is calling out our names, waiting to share His heart with us, waiting to hear our hearts expressed to Him.

The biggest hindrance to communion with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is our perception of who He is. Basing our perception of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s character on the ungodly actions or attitudes of others will skew our understanding of His nature. Often circumstances in our lives prevent us from drawing near. Yet David says in **Psalms 27:10**: “Though my father and mother forsake me, אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) will receive me.” In other words, regardless of who abandons us, betrays us, or hurts us, אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is ready, willing and able to embrace us.

Intimacy with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is available to you. It is as accessible to you as אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s promised. אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s invites you to enjoy intimate fellowship with him which will put your Amanah (faith) to the test more than anything else **James 1:2-4** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your Amanah (faith) produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

We cannot be intimate if we don't trust. Trust is at the heart of intimacy. The more we trust, the closer we draw. The degree to which trust is compromised in a relationship is the degree to which intimacy evaporates.

This is as true in our relationship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) as it is in our relationships with other human beings. Our experience of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s nearness or distance is not a description of his actual proximity to us, but of our experience of intimacy

with him. Scripture shows us that אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) is intimate with those who trust him. The more we trust אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), the more intimately we come to know him. felling distant from אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) is often due to a disruption in trust, such as with Sin or disappointment.

This reality is vitally important to understand. As Believers, we want to experience intimacy with אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah). As the psalmist said, “for me it is good to be near אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah)” **Psalms 73:28**. And we want to heed James’s exhortation and realize its promise: “Draw near to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), and he will draw near to you” **James 4:8**. But we can seek that nearness in ways that don’t produce it.

One common mistake is thinking that nearness to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) can be achieved through knowledge accumulation. Now, of course, to intimately know אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), we must know crucial things about אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah). **OWYAH** (Yahuah) said, “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” **John 8:32** and he pointed out that many worship what they do not know **John 4:22**.

We must understand that in this life we will never be as close to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) as we ought to be or desire to be. The reason for this is Sin in our lives. This is not a deficiency on אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah)’s part, but on ours; our Sin remains a barrier to the full and complete fellowship with אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah).

The secret to drawing near to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) and having him draw near to us is revealed clearly in Scripture: we draw near to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) through Amanah (faith) in **OWYAH** (Yahuah) HaMashiach, who alone gives us access to him **Hebrews 4:14–16; 7:25; Philippians 3:9**, and we put our trust in all of “his precious and very great promises” which are found in **OWYAH** (Yahusha) **2 Peter 1:4; 2 Corinthians 1:20**.

אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) is impressed with our Amanah (faith), not our works. For without Amanah (faith) it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. **Hebrews 11:6**

When אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) sees someone whose heart fully trusts his promises and lives by them, אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) comes to strongly support that Believer **2 Chronicles 16:9** and manifests himself to him:

“Whoever has my Commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” **John 14:21**

“Indeed, I count every thing as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing my Adon **OWYAH** (Yahusha) HaMashiach. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Messiah and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the Torah (law), but that which comes through Amanah (faith) in Messiah” **Philippians 3:8-9**.

אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) wants intimacy with you. **OWYAH** (Yahusha) has done all the hard work on the tree to make it possible. But he requires that you believe in him **John 14:1**. He wants you to trust him with all your heart **Proverbs 3:5**.

ADMIT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ON YOUR OWN

One of the (1st) first steps to gaining a closer relationship to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is admitting that you need him in your life. The reality is that we can't do everything on our own, so admitting this will not only show a sense of humility in your life, but will also show אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) that you have Amanah (faith) in his strength and promises.

PREPARING YOUR HEART

When I speak about drawing nearer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), you must understand one thing: A closer walk must begin with a preparation of the heart. In **Jeremiah 4:3** it says; "This is what אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) says to the people of Yahudah (Judah) and to Yerushalyim (Jerusalem): "Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns.

אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is speaking about breaking up the hard ground in your heart, that part where the Word of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) isn't finding root and lodging... Where it isn't flourishing and growing... Where it isn't bearing fruit! It is written; "And sow not among the thorns." If there is a patch in your heart that is hard or thorny that area has to be plowed up before planting. Get rid of those things in your heart, which are contrary to the Word of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). Then, when they have been removed, there will be room for a new planting of the Word.

You can try to sow the seed of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s Word among thorns, but it won't grow. But instead, the thorns will soon choke the Word out. Those thorns are the cares of this life, they are the things which will choke out the Word and cause you to become unfruitful. We read in **Hosea 10:12**; "Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), until he comes and showers his righteousness on you."

If we really want אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) to give us something new, we must realize that it will only happen, because we took time to prepare the soil of our heart. There may be things in our heart, which could prevent us from drawing closer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). Many times it's that thing which we allow to remain, that thing which we refuse to put away which hinders us.

When thinking about Him isn't enough, speak to Him in conversational. After all, **OWYָּהּ (Yahusha)** walked as a man and built relationships in the same way we do today. If you spend time in the Word, He will begin to speak those thoughts back to your heart, giving you guidance and encouragement. The more you read and know, the more there is for you to hear in your time spent with Him.

"Hearing?" you say. Yes, this is the (2nd) second part of intimacy: listening and hearing. When He speaks back to your heart, "I love you no matter what." He tells us to put Him in remembrance of His Word, and that includes what He speaks to our hearts.

Remember, He desires to hear about every thought, desire, and dream. In Scripture, David told אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) he was angry. Did אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) know David was angry? Of course. Yet He wanted David to tell Him. This enabled David to hear אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s heart and release his anger to someone who understood without taking it out on others. He chose to remember the faithfulness of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) in His life

and act upon it.

(5) FIVE BASIC THINGS WE CAN DO TO DRAW NEAR TO אַיָּאָל (YAHUAH)

(1) The (1st) first thing we can do to draw closer to אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) is to make a daily habit of confessing our Sin to Him. If Sin is the barrier in our relationship with אַיָּאָל (Yahuah), then confession removes that barrier. When we confess our Sins before אַיָּאָל (Yahuah), He promises to forgive us (**1 John 1:9**), and forgiveness is what restores a relationship that has been strained. We must keep in mind that confession is more than simply saying, “I’m sorry for my Sin, אַיָּאָל (Yahuah).” It is the heartfelt repentance (turning away from Sin), recognizing that our Sin is an offense to a Kadosh Alahym. It is the confession of one who realizes that his Sin is what nailed **OWYָּאָל (Yahusha)** to the tree. It is the cry of the publican in **Luke 18** who said, “אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) be merciful to me a Sinner!” As King David wrote, “The sacrifices of אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) are a broken Ruach (spirit); a broken and contrite heart, O אַיָּאָל (Yahuah), you will not despise” **Psalms 51:17**.

(2) The (2nd) second thing we can do to draw closer to אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) is to speak to Him through prayer. Prayer is key. Although prayer can sometimes be looked at as weird or awkward, it’s really not. Look at prayer as a conversation between you and אַיָּאָל (Yahuah). Just relax, get somewhere peaceful, and begin a conversation with אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) that will help build your relationship with him. “To be a Believer without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” I want you to begin looking at prayer as your way of staying connected to אַיָּאָל (Yahuah). Any relationship with meaning is one that has great communication.

In **James 4:8** we read; “Come near to אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you Sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” Let this verse sink down into your heart, and apply it to your life. You have the responsibility of taking the (1st) first step. When you begin to draw near to אַיָּאָל (Yahuah), He will automatically draw near to you. Cleanse your hands; and purify your hearts: focus your mind. Start to seek אַיָּאָל (Yahuah). Come out from the world, separate yourself from the things of the world, and fix your heart and mind on things above.

אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) also tells us to humble ourselves. If we do this, He will lift us up. He will come close, and we will find our experience getting richer and fuller each day. He looks for occasions to reach into our hearts and do a greater work in our lives. One way is for us to draw close is by spending time alone with Him, putting away some of those things that take so much of our time and spending more time with Him. If we spend some of that extra time in prayer, it gives אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) an opportunity to draw us closer.

The Gospels often record **OWYָּאָל (Yahusha)** separated Himself away to commune with His Father in prayer. Prayer is much more than simply a way to ask אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) for things we need or want. Consider the model prayer that **OWYָּאָל (Yahusha)** gives His disciples in **Matthew 6:9-13**. The (3) first three petitions in his prayer are directed towards אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) (may His name be honored, may His kingdom come, may His Will be done). The last (3) three petitions are requests we make of אַיָּאָל (Yahuah) after we’ve taken care of the first (3) three (give us our daily bread, forgive us our debts (Sins), lead us not into temptation). Another thing we can

do to revive our prayer lives is to read the Psalms. Many of the Psalms are heartfelt cries to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) for various things. In the Psalms we see adoration, repentance, thanksgiving and supplication modeled in a divinely inspired way.

(3) The (3rd) third thing we can do to draw closer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is to listen when אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) speaks. Now, besides spending time in prayer, we need to also spend time in the Word. If reading Scripture is listening to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) speak to us, speaking to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is accomplished through prayer. Many today are chasing a supernatural experience of hearing אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s voice, but the apostle Peter tells us that we "have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" **2 Peter 1:19**. That "more sure prophetic word" is Scripture. In Scripture, we "hear" אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s voice speaking to us. It is through the "אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)-breathed" Scriptures that we become "thoroughly equipped for every good work" according to **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. So if we want to grow closer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), we should read His Word regularly. In reading His Word, we are "listening" to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) speak through it by his Ruach (Spirit) who illuminates the Word to us.

If we take time to read and study Scripture, we will find that, all at once it becomes alive unto us. There will be something about it that draws us, something that enriches our heart. One way to draw closer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is to enlarge our understanding of Him and of His ways. This is very important so that we won't try to bring Him to terms with our ways, but will become doers of His ways.

We read in **Isaiah 55:6-8**; "Seek אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), and he will have mercy on them, and to our Aluah (God), for he will freely pardon."

Here אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) shows you His way: Seek Him while He may be found. When you feel His nearness, draw near and call upon Him. Let the wicked forsake his way. Forget your ways, and begin to seek out אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s ways. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)." Open up your understanding to see אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) and His ways. He said; "His thoughts are not your thoughts:" He thinks differently about things than you do. Realize אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is Aluah (God) and you and I are just human beings who think with a natural mind. We think as created beings while אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) thinks as the Creator!!!

Neither are your ways my ways, I'm not like you, I don't act like you act, I don't respond to situations in the way you respond to them. In fact, my ways are altogether different from your ways! Understand that if our ways were אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)'s ways we wouldn't need to draw near to Him. We wouldn't have to change. But since His ways are far from being our ways, we must seek His ways out.

It is written in **Proverbs 14:12**; "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death." There is a way, which seems right unto a man. Man looks at it and sizes it up by saying; "I believe this way is good for me:" But אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is telling us; "not to look at our ways, for many of those ways are actually the ways of death!"

(4) The (4th) fourth thing we can do to draw closer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is to find a body of believers with whom we can regularly worship. This is such a vital component of spiritual growth. Too often, we approach with a “what can I get out of it” mentality. We seldom take the time to prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Again, the Psalms show us many calls from אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) to His people to come and worship him (for example **Psalm 95:1-2**) Oh come, let us sing to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah); let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! .

אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) invites us, commands us, to come into His presence for worship. How can we, His people, fail to respond? Not only does regular gathering give us an opportunity to come before אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)’s presence in worship, but it also gives us an opportunity to fellowship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)’s people. As we come into the presence of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) in worship and fellowship with His people, we can’t help but grow closer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) as a result.

(5) Finally, a closer relationship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is built upon a life of obedience. OWHYAH (Yahusha) told His disciples in the upper room, “If you love me, keep my Commandments” **John 14:23**. James tells us that as we submit ourselves to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) through obedience, resist HaSatan (the devil), and draw near to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), and He will draw near to us **James 4:7-8**. Paul tells us in Romans that our obedience is our “living sacrifice” of thanksgiving to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) **Romans 12:1**. We must keep in mind that all Scriptura; exhortations to obedience are presented as our response to the grace of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) we receive in salvation. We don’t earn salvation through our obedience; rather, our obedience is the way we honor and show our love and gratitude towards אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) for our salvation, which helps us draw nearer to him.

So, through confession, Scripture study, prayer, regular gathering with fellow believers, and obedience, we can develop a closer relationship and draw nearer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). It seems rather simple, if not simplistic. But consider this: how do we develop a closer relationship with other human beings? We spend time with them in conversation, opening our hearts to them and listening to them at the same time. We acknowledge when we’ve done wrong and seek forgiveness. We seek to treat them well and sacrifice our own needs to fulfill theirs. It’s not really that different with our relationship to our Heavenly Father.

Psalm 145:18 “אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth (Torah).”

LAY ASIDE MEANINGLESS THINGS!!!

אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) doesn’t waste His time with the ways of death and neither should we. We can’t prepare our hearts while watching TV, for it will only rob us of seeking אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), and rob us of drawing closer to Him. If you really want to draw nearer unto אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), then draw away from the TV... Redeem that idle time, giving yourself over to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) and earnestly seeking Him... You’ll find yourself enjoying life a lot more if you pull apart from the things of this world, and really give yourself over to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)!

In **Romans 8:6** we read; “The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Ruach (Spirit) is life and Shalum (Peace).” When you sit for hours in

front of the TV, letting your carnal mind run away with itself, you will only find death. You won't grow Spiritually by spending your time that way. You won't get anywhere with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). No, It will just rob you of getting down to the business of preparing your heart. Let me ask you another question: What do you read? What kind of books? What kind of magazines? Instead of spending time watching TV or reading fictions, man made stories why not use that valuable time to read scripture? Just the fact that אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) gave us scripture, His Word stands to show us our need of reading it, of digging deep into its pages. You need to get into the scripture, the Word of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) for yourself every day. It is food for your soul!

WRONG BELIEFS

There is another area that can hinder you from drawing closer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah): Much in Theology could be keeping you back. Many seem to have patented answers for every question and for every issue in Theology. It's almost like having a computerized religion, where you push a button and certain things happen in a certain way.

Do you have a hunger to draw as close to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) as you can, surrendering your all to Him? All of that head knowledge doesn't promote action. It doesn't cause you to really come forth and give yourself over to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). But, if you have a true Amanah (Faith) in OWHYAH (Yahusha), to where you personally know Him and not just know some facts about Him, it will move you to action. When you believe with your HEART, and not just you're HEAD, it is going to cause you to draw nearer and closer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). Down deep inside you want to seek Him, because you want to draw closer.

Others say; "It is a finished work, and I don't have to add anything to it." In its proper context that is a true saying: When OWHYAH (Yahusha) died on the tree, the work was finished; the way unto salvation was provided for us; nothing can be added to it, and nothing can be taken from it. But, when some say that it is finished, what they are really saying is; "I believe in the Messiah, and now I can just settle down and live any way I want to live. After all, it doesn't really matter how I live since it's a finished work..."

Their Theology will keep them from having a deeper, closer walk with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)! Do you know that some things aren't finished yet? And they won't be finished for a long time. Though you may have prayed today, your prayer life isn't finished, it is a daily task. You must continue to pray and seek the face of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), day after day and it's the same with feeding your soul. You need to feast your soul on the Word of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) every day. You need to draw nearer and closer to Him. He wants to take you on to perfection. He wants to clean you up and perfect righteousness in your life!

Luke 9:23; "Then he (OWHYAH (Yahusha) said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their tree daily and follow me."” Anything you find written in Scripture, the Word of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is necessary and that's why it's there.

אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) said; "that we ought to separate our lives from the world and we have to declare what אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) has said." He also told us; "to love not the

world, nor the things which are in the world,” in **1 John 2:15-16**; and He warns; “that in the last days men would be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) in **2 Timothy 3:4**

Many of these teachings are neglected, mainly because of fear and those afraid to speak up, because it might cause someone to leave the congregation... Believe me, if we're ashamed to speak up now, **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha) will be ashamed of us in the day of His return... We must blow the Shofar now, letting **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)'s children know that He expects them to live Kadosh!

KEY SCRIPTURE FOR GETTING CLOSER TO יְהוָה (YAHUAH)

Romans 12:1-2 tells us; “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)'s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, Kadosh (holy) and pleasing to **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)'s Will is—his good, pleasing and perfect Will.”

Brothers and Sisters, give thought to this passage. It shows how to prepare your heart. It shows just what **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) would expect of Believers. Take this Scripture and meditate on your reasonable service!

I firmly believe that the Scriptures, the Word of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) has all the answers we need. It has the answers to everything pertaining to life and righteousness. If we really want to draw closer to **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), all we need do is follow what the Word of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) has to tell us. He tells us to present ourselves Kadosh (holy) and acceptable unto Him. Now you must understand, what is acceptable unto you may be totally unacceptable unto **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). Standards, which you might feel are all right might be far from what **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) approves of. If you want to draw closer to **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), you are going to have to do so on His terms and not on your terms!

Now I will tell you, you're not going to get Kadosh (holy) overnight. You have to be transformed by the Word of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). The Word has to take hold upon you, shaping you and molding you into a Kadosh (holy) vessel. You're not perfect the day you receive salvation. As the Word is ministered to us, we gain more and more light each day. We gain more to live up to, that we might grow closer in our relationship with **יְהוָה** (Yahuah).

יְהוָה (Yahuah) has made no unreasonable demands upon you. He expects you to present yourselves unto Him. It is the normal course of duty for the child of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). He expects you to allow His Word to take its hold in your life, to where it can mold you more and more into the image of His dear Son. And, “be not conformed unto this world”: this is a Commandment we must follow!

How can you tell if you're conformed? Just try and break away from doing what the world is doing. See if it is hard for you to keep from doing the very same things. The Word of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) tells you not to allow the world to mold you. Don't be afraid to stand out in the crowd as the odd one, the one whose heart and mind are set on the things of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). As children of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), we are different. **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha) said; “that we weren't of this world.” Our true citizenship isn't someplace

on this earth. It is up in Shamyim (heavens).

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. This is what takes the place of conformity. Let your mind be renewed by drawing closer to **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and to His Word!

And you shall love **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) your Alahym with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your might.” Love is a feeling, an emotion, and without experiencing it, it is difficult to understand completely. I will do my best to explain this command, to try to describe the love for Alahym, and show the path to obtain that kind of love. Only keep in mind that this command is not intellectual; therefore, our minds are limited in comprehending it. This command involves a feeling, an emotion, and only when we experience it within us will we fully comprehend it.

How can **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) command us to ‘feel’ something? You can command an action, certain behavior, but can you make someone feel something? In truth, our being already loves the Father. We are created in His likeness, in His image, and we are His children. We are a part of Him. Love for Alahym is already within us. We don’t feel it like we should because we have too many blockages in the way. Too many walls within us stop the flow of His love from our innermost being. So, then, the (1st) first and great command actually commands us to bring out that love that is already within us and increase it.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE **אֵלֹהִים (YAHUAH) WITH ALL OUR HEART, BEING (SOUL) AND MIGHT (MIND)?**

Love for **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) is a progression, a growth. **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) already planted a seed of love within us because we are His children, and He is our Father. The (1st) first thing we do to get that seed to grow is to ask the Father. Ask the Father to increase your love for Him. Ask Him to give you the gift of love to love Him as he intended. If we ask sincerely, He will do it.

Our part is to seek His Face diligently. If we desire something, we will seek after it. If we’re hungry, we seek food; thirsty, we seek drink. If we desire to learn something, we seek it out—we do research, go to school, take lessons, etc. Whatever we desire, we find a way to get it. So too with the Father. We must seek Him. Read His word daily. Study His Commands. Study the Good News. Learn of **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha)—His ways and His words. Pray diligently every day. The key is diligence. We cannot tire in seeking Him. If we tire, our love will not grow.

The more we seek **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah), the more we learn of Him, then the more we’ll understand Him. The more we know and understand Him, then the more our heart will desire Him. As we learn of Him, we begin to understand His greatness, His magnificence, His goodness, His favor, His kindness, His mightiness, His strength, His righteousness! We understand that **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) is Alahym!

When we understand this, we greatly appreciate **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and thank Him and esteem Him, because He has given us life and sustains us. All that we are and all that we have is only because of Him. This appreciation and thankfulness brings us to the (1st) first level of love for Alahym (with all your heart). We will begin to desire Him because without Him we are nothing. We will desire Him because we realize

that it is pointless to desire anything else, for He is the Source of all good things.

Our heart and all our mind go together. Usually, whatever we think about (positively), we begin to desire; and whatever we desire, we think about. So we love Him with all our mind when our thoughts are continually focused on Him—how to please Him and obey Him. When we study and think on Him, we'll desire Him.

The more we seek after **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah), the more our love for Him grows. We continue in our diligence to learn of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah), and we increase in our obedience to walk in His ways. We obey His Commands, His Torah, following **וְיֵשׁוּעָא** (Yahusha) as our example. As we obey, our behavior changes. We become more set-apart. Sinful ways cease. We obey His commands. We do more of His will. We begin to deny the ways of the flesh in order to please the Father. We deny ourself and follow Him—nullifying our will to promote His will.

The more we walk in His way, then the more we experience Him in our life. We experience His Presence more; we feel His love more; we hear His voice more. Our love for Him continues to grow, but now it's a greater love. It's not a love simply based on what He's done for us. It's a greater love, an unconditional love that has no solidified reason behind it. We just love Him. Even if everything He's given us was taken away, we'd still love Him. Because this greater love is not based on a reason (it's unconditional), we will give our life for Him. Our being loves Him so much that we would give it up—give up our, our soul—before we deny Him. This is the (2nd) second level of love (with all your being, your Soul).

If we reach this (2nd) second level of love, we do well, but to be perfect we must go further. Continuing in our learning of the Father, continuing in our walk with Him to obey His word and walk in His way.

The (3rd) third level of love requires testing of our diligence and endurance. It involves denying our self and following **וְיֵשׁוּעָא** (Yahusha). Follow Him above all else. Follow Him through whatever trials and tribulation He places before us and overcoming in Him. It is truly dying to our self and living for Him. This (3rd) third level is (with all your might, your Mind).

The (1st) first meaning is to love **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) with all that He has Baruch (Blessed) us with, all of our resources and all of our possessions. This seems easy next to giving our life for Him, but for some people, possessions are more precious than life. Just think of how many people commit suicide when all their money is lost. When we love **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah), we will give up everything to serve Him and walk in His way and accomplish His will. All our possessions are matters of naught.

A deeper meaning is The Hebrew word “modechah” which comes from the root word “meod,” which means ‘Very.’ To love **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) with all your might, modechah means to love Him VERY much. How much? VERY MUCH! It is an unlimited love. It has no boundaries—it goes beyond the Barachah (Blessings) in our life; it goes beyond our physical existence. There is no limit to this kind of love. It is a love that is beyond our self—we cannot make ourselves feel this love. **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) births this deep love for Him within us when we have endured through the trials, tribulations and obstacles of this life. When we reach this level of love, we will forsake all for Him, all that we have and all that we are, our possessions and our life for the esteem of His Name.

Very few reach this level of love for אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), and it is only in experiencing it that we can truly understand it. Yet, we know this love is possible. So we start where we are and begin to diligently seek His face so our love will grow and blossom within us until love is perfected.

Another aspect of love for אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) is to make Him known to all mankind. When we love a person, we speak about that person all the time. We tell others just how good this person is and try to get others to see this person's good and feel the same way so they speak the same praises. That's how we should be with אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah). We have to express our love for Him to others. Cause Him to be beloved in the eyes of others.

Abraham is a good example of this. He understood אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) and loved Him deeply. He called others to believe and worship אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) as well. When he left Haran, he took with him all that he had and the "beings whom they had acquired" **Genesis 12:5** Others came to know and love אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) through Abraham, and they too set out for Kena'an.

When we love אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), we have to draw closer to him and we help others to do the same. Those who do not know אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), we tell them about him. Those who are distant from Him, we help them to draw closer. Those who don't understand Him, we give them knowledge and help them understand.

How do I love אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) with all my heart, and with all my being (Soul), and with all my might (Mind)?

1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) and His strength, Seek His face continually!

Psalms 27:8 To my heart You have said, "Seek My face." Your face, אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), I seek.

Psalms 105:4 Seek אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) and His strength; Seek His face always.

As said before, our being already has a seed of love for אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) within us. We must break down all blockages and walls and then grow in love for the Father. Pray for אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) to remove all blockages, break down walls, remove impediments and stumbling blocks from before you so you can feel and experience His love. Pray that אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) will guide you on the right path as you diligently search for Him. Pray for diligence and steadfastness. Pray that the love for the Father increases within you.

Exodus 24:1-2 Then He said to Moses, "Come up to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and (70) seventy of the elders of Yisrael, and you shall worship at a distance. "Moses alone, however, shall come near to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), but they shall not come near, nor shall the people come up with him."

Exodus 19:20-24 אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. Then אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) spoke to Moses, "Go down, warn the people, so that they do not break through to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) to gaze, and many of them perish. "Also let the priests who come near to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) consecrate themselves, or else אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) will break out against them."

Isaiah 55:1-3 "Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost. "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance. "Incline your ear and come to Me, Listen that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, According to the faithful mercies shown to David.

Leviticus 21:21 'No man among the descendants of Aaron the priest who has Sin is to come near to offer אַהֲרָן (Yahuah)'s offerings by fire; since he has Sin, he shall not come near to offer the food of his Aluah (God).

Psalms 65:4 How Baruch (Blessed) is the one whom You choose and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your Kadosh (holy) temple.

Zephaniah 3:2 She heeded no voice, She accepted no instruction She did not trust in אַהֲרָן (Yahuah), She did not draw near to her Aluah (God).

Jeremiah 2:30-31 "In vain I have struck your sons; They accepted no chastening Your sword has devoured your prophets Like a destroying lion. "O generation, heed the word of אַהֲרָן (Yahuah). Have I been a wilderness to Yisrael, Or a land of thick darkness? Why do My people say, 'We are free to roam; We will no longer come to You'?

Leviticus 10:1-3 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before אַהֲרָן (Yahuah), which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of אַהֲרָן (Yahuah) and consumed them, and they died before אַהֲרָן (Yahuah). Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what אַהֲרָן (Yahuah) spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as Kadosh (holy), And before all the people I will be honored.'" So Aaron, therefore, kept silent.

Jeremiah 30:21-22 'Their leader shall be one of them, And their ruler shall come forth from their midst; And I will bring him near and he shall approach Me; For who would dare to risk his life to approach Me?' declares אַהֲרָן (Yahuah). 'You shall be My people, And I will be your Aluah (God)."

Isaiah 66:22-23 "For just as the new Shamyim (Heavens) and the new Earth Which I make will endure before Me," declares אַהֲרָן (Yahuah), "So your offspring and your name will endure. "And it shall be from new moon (Month) to new moon (Month) And from Sabbath to Sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says אַהֲרָן (Yahuah).

Ezekiel 45:4 "It shall be the Kadosh (holy) portion of the land; it shall be for the priests, the ministers of the sanctuary, who come near to minister to אַהֲרָן (Yahuah), and it shall be a place for their houses and a Kadosh (holy) place for the sanctuary.

Psalms 145:18 אַהֲרָן (Yahuah) is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth (Torah).

Jeremiah 3:22 "Return, O faithless sons, I will heal your faithlessness." "Behold, we

come to You; For You are אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) our Aluah (God).

Psalms 96:8 Ascribe to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) the esteem (glory) of His name; Bring an offering and come into His courts.

Zechariah 1:3 "Therefore say to them, 'Thus says אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) of hosts, 'Return to Me,' declares אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) of hosts, 'that I may return to you,' says אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) of hosts.

Psalms 100:2-4 Serve אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. Know that אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) Himself is Aluah (God); It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise Give thanks to Him, Baruch (Bless) His name.

Malachi 3:7 "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them Return to Me, and I will return to you," says אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?'

Micah 6:6-8 With what shall I come to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) And bow myself before the Aluah (God) on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves? Does אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the Sin of my soul? He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your Aluah (God)?

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the Kadosh (holy) place by the blood of אֱלֹהִים (Yahusha), by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah).

Hebrews 7:19 (for the Torah (Law) made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah).

Hebrews 10:1-10 For the Torah (Law), since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.

CLOSENESS » DRAWING NEAR TO אֱלֹהִים (YAHUAH)

Psalms 73:28 But as for me, the nearness of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) is my good; I have made אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) Aluah (God) my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works.

PRAYER » DRAWING NEAR TO אֱלֹהִים (YAHUAH)

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of Amanh (faith), having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Deuteronomy 6:6 Then, begin to seek His Face. "And these Words which I am

Commanding you today shall be in your heart,”

REMOVE YOURSELF FROM HARMFUL RELATIONSHIPS

One of the biggest roadblocks to finding a deeper relationship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is harmful relationships. Whether these relationships be with family, friends or co-workers, taking yourself out of the equation will help give you the space and energy needed to first get right in your relationship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). Although this might sound tough to accomplish, you won't believe the freedom and liberty you will encounter when being able to solely focus on your relationship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah).

GET PLUGGED INTO A GROUP OF BELIEVERS

You won't believe how much having a group of people to support you with help you along your journey with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah). Getting plugged into a local gathering or small-group of believers will help keep you accountable, give you wisdom when needed, and even be there for you in times of distress. I encourage you to get yourself plugged in to a community that cares about your relationship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) as much as you do.

This is how we begin to increase our love for the Father and draw closer to him: through His Word. Commit yourself to reading and studying His word daily. Be careful that your time is not consumed with only reading what other people say about His word. The more we study His word, the more knowledge we'll have of Him. With more knowledge comes more understanding of Who He is. With more understanding of Him, our being will begin to rejoice in Him, in His greatness and His goodness, and that rejoicing will burst forth into love for the Father. Seek His face continually. Study His word, and obey. Whatever command you learn, walk in it. Do your best to live in set-apartness, in righteousness, in love for our neighbor, without Sin, and in complete dedication to the Father.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. **9** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's Commandments and abide in his love. **John 15:1-10**

Pray daily. Take a few moments each day to just think about Who אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is and how Great He is. Then, praise Him. Tell Him of His greatness and His love and His compassion and His strength and His righteousness! Read praises from Scripture aloud. Give thanks continually for any and every good thing around you.

Share אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) with others. Tell others about Who He is and how great a

Father He is. Make Him known among the people and make Him beloved in the eyes of others.

In all of this: stick to it, be diligent and steadfast. Remember it takes time for a seed to grow. Do not grow weary, continue seeking Him. Pray for His strength.

Take a leap of Amanah (faith), and pour out your heart to the Lover of your soul. Position yourself to listen, and He will speak. The seeds of intimacy will grow abundantly and you will draw closer to אֵלֹהִים (Yahuah) and he will draw closer to you.