

# MAKE YOUR PRESENCE SHINE UPON YOUR SERVANT

**Psalms 31:16:** Make Your presence to shine upon Your servant: save me for Your compassion's sake. 17 Let me not be ashamed, **יְהוָה** (Yahuah); for I have called upon You.

**Psalms 119.135:** Make Your presence (face) to shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes.

**Psalms 80:19** Restore us, O **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) Alhym (God) of hosts! Let your presence (face) shine, that we may be saved!

**Psalms 67:1** May **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) be gracious to us and Barak (Bless) us and make his presence (face) to shine upon us, Selah

**Psalms 89:15** Baruk (Blessed) are the people who know the joyful sound (shout or blast of war, alarm, or joy), who walk, O **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), in the light of your presence (face).

**Psalms 4:6** There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your presence (face) upon us, O **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)!"

**Numbers 14.13:** And Moshah (Moses) said to **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), "Then the Mitsrym (Egyptians) shall hear it, (for You brought up this people in your might from among them;) 14 and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that You, **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), are among this people, that You, **יְהוָה** (Yahuah), are seen "face to face" (a euphemism), and that Your cloud stands over them, and that You go before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night."

This is describing what is known as "the shekinah glory", the cloud by day and the fire by night, that was always with the Children of Yasharal (Israel) in the wilderness - and was manifested to them numerous other times as this "shining presence" appeared in The Temple. It is this "shekinah glory" this "light" represented the very presence of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah).

**Isaiah 60:1** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) has risen upon you.

**Numbers 6.22:** **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) spoke to Moshah (Moses), saying, <sup>23</sup>"Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall Barak (Bless) the people of Yasharal (Israel): you shall say to them, <sup>24</sup>**יְהוָה** (Yahuah) Barak (Bless) you and keep (watch, preserve) you; <sup>25</sup>**יְהוָה** (Yahuah) make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup>**יְהוָה** (Yahuah) lift up his Face (countenance) upon you and give you Shalum (Peace). <sup>27</sup>"So shall they put my name upon the people of Yasharal (Israel), and I will Barak (Bless) them.

Believers are called to "seek His face". Yet many have no idea what this means. The concept of being before the face of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) actually refers to being in His very presence - encountering him "face-to-face", so to speak.

The Hebrew term that's typically translated as "face" is *paniyim*, which means: presence and before. Derives from *panah*, *paw-naw'*; a primitive root; to turn; by implication, to face, i.e. appear, look, behold, regard, (have) respect (to), (re)turn. In order to comprehend what Scripture intends, it's important to understand what the Hebrews understood the face to represent. When one saw the face of another it meant they were "in the presence" of that person. It was not merely a matter of looking at their physical face. When they "faced" someone they entered into the full experience of the presence of that person.

**Exodus 33:23** then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but My face shall not be seen."

**John 1:18** No man has seen **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) at any time.

## SEEK יָהוָה (YAHUAH)

**1 Chronicles 16.11** Seek יָהוָה (Yahuah) and His strength; Seek His presence continually.

**2 Chronicles 7.14** If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My presence, and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from Shamym (Heaven), and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Therefore, we must recognize that whenever Scripture talks about the “face of יָהוָה (Yahuah)” it is always referring to His presence. Since it represents His presence, to the Hebrew mind it also meant that His very nature, His character, and His authority were also “present”. For them, even the mention of His name represented His actual “presence” with them. It was as if He was standing right in front of them. With these things in mind lets review what His Word says about His “face” (His presence).

**Exodus 33.11:** And יָהוָה (Yahuah) spoke to Moshah (Moses) face to face (a euphemism meaning presence to presence - a direct encounter), as a man speaks to his friend.

**Exodus 33.17:** And יָהוָה (Yahuah) said to Moshah (Moses), I will do this thing also that you have spoken: for you have found favor in My sight, and I know you by name. 18 And he said, I implore You, show me Your magnificence. 19 And He said, I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of יָהוָה (Yahuah) before you; and will show favor to whom I will show favor, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion. 20 But He said, "You can not see My face (literally): for there shall be no human being see Me, and live." 21 And יָהוָה (Yahuah) said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand upon a rock: 22 and it shall come to pass, while My magnificence passes by, that I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by: 23 and I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back parts: but My face(literally) shall not be seen."

**Leviticus 17.10:** And whatever man there is of the house of Yasharal (Israel), or of the strangers that sojourn among you, who eats any manner of blood; I will even set My presence against that being that eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that makes an atonement for the being.

**Leviticus 20.3:** And I will set My presence against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he has given of his seed to Molech, to defile My sanctuary, and to profane My set apart name. 4 And if the people of the land in any manner hide their eyes from the man, when he gives of his seed unto Molech, and do not kill him 5 then I will set My presence against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people. 6 And the being that turns after such as have mediums, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set My presence against that being and will cut him off from among his people. 7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be set apart: for I am יָהוָה (Yahuah), your Alhym. 8 And you shall keep My statutes, and do them. I am יָהוָה (Yahuah), who sanctifies you.

**Leviticus 26.14:** But if you will not listen to Me, and will not do all these commandments; 15 and if you shall despise My statutes, or if your vital essence abhors My judgments, so that you will not do all My commandments, but that you break My covenant, 16 I also will do this to you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning fever, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. 17 And I will set My presence against you, and you shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and you shall flee when none pursues you.

**Deuteronomy 5.1:** And Moshah (Moses) called all Yasharal (Israel), and said unto them, Hear, Yasharal (Israel), the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that you may learn them, and keep, and do them. 2 יָהוָה (Yahuah), our Alhym, made a covenant with us in Horeb. 3 יָהוָה (Yahuah) made this covenant not with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day. 4 יָהוָה (Yahuah) talked with you "face to face" (a euphemism meaning presence, countenance) in the mount, out of the midst of the fire, 5 (I stood between יָהוָה (Yahuah) and you at that time, to show you The Word of יָהוָה (Yahuah): for you were afraid by reason of the fire, and did not go up into the mount;) saying, 6 "I am יָהוָה (Yahuah), your Alhym, who brought you out of the land of Mitsrym (Egypt), from the house of bondage. 7 You shall have no other Alhym (gods) before me (literally - in My presence).

**Deuteronomy 31.16** And אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) said to Moshah (Moses), "Behold, you shall sleep with your fathers; and this people will rise up, and go whoring after the Alhym (gods) of the strangers of the land, where they go to be among them, and will forsake Me, and break My covenant which I have made with them. 17 Then My anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My presence from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, have not these evils come upon us because our Alhym is not among us? 18 And I will surely hide My presence in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other Alhym (gods).

**Deuteronomy 32.19:** And when אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) saw it He abhorred them, because of the provoking of His sons, and of His daughters. 20 And He said, I will hide my presence from them. I will see what their end shall be, for they are a very perverse generation, children in whom is no Amunah (Faith).

**Deuteronomy 34.10:** And there arose not a prophet since in Yasharal (Israel) like Moshah (Moses), whom אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) knew "face to face" (Presence, countenance).

**Joshua 5.13:** And it came to pass, when OWYָּאֵל (Yahusha/Yahushua (Joshua) was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and OWYָּאֵל (Yahusha/Yahushua (Joshua) went to Him, and said to Him, "Are You for us, or for our adversaries?" 14 And He said, No; but as captain of the Assembly of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) am I now come. And OWYָּאֵל (Yahusha /Yahushua (Joshua) fell on his face to the earth, and worshipped, and said to Him, what says My Sovereign to His servant? 15 The Commander of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah)'s army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is Qadosh (Holy)." And OWYָּאֵל (Yahusha/Yahushua (Joshua) did so. (Joshua is virtually the same name as that given to The Mashiach (Messiah).

**Judges 6.22:** And when Gideon perceived that He was The Malak (ambassador, angel, king, messenger) of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), Gideon said, "Alas, אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) Alhym, for I have seen The Malak (ambassador, angel, king, messenger) of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) face to face." 23 And אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) said unto him, "Shalum (Peace) to you; fear not: you shall not die." 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), and called it אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) Shalum (Peace).

**1 Kings 13.6:** And the king answered and said unto the man of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), "Intreat now the presence of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), your Alhym, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again."

**1 Chronicles 16.7:** Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) into the hand of Asaph and his brothers. 8 "Give thanks to אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah). Call upon His name. Make known His deeds among the people. 9 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works. 10 Esteem in His set apart name. Let the heart of them rejoice who seeks אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah). 11 Seek אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) and His strength; seek His presence continually.

**Job 22.21:** Acquaint yourself with Him now, and be at Shalum (Peace): thereby good shall come to you 22 Receive, I pray, the Turah (law) from His mouth, and lay up His words in your heart. 23 If you return to The Almighty, you shall be built up. You shall put away iniquity far from your tabernacles. 24 Then shall you lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. 25 Yes, The Almighty shall be your defense, and you shall have plenty of silver. 26 For then shall you have your delight in the Almighty, and shall lift up your face unto אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah). 27 You shall make your prayer to Him, and He shall hear you, and you shall pay your vows. 28 You shall also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto you: and the light shall shine upon your ways.

**Job 33.28** He shall pray to אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), and He will be favorable to him: and he shall see His presence with joy: for He will render unto man His just action.

**Psalms 22.22:** I will declare Your name to my brothers: in the midst of the congregation will I praise You. 23 You who fear אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), praise Him; all you the seed of Yaaqob (Jacob), honor Him; and fear Him, all of you, the seed of Yasharal (Israel). 24 For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither has He hidden his presence from him; but when he cried unto Him, He heard. 25 My praise shall be of You in the great Assembly: I will pay my vows before those who fear Him.

**Psalms 24.3:** Who shall ascend into the hill of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), or who shall stand in His Qadosh (Holy) place? 4 He that has clean hands, and a pure heart; who has not lifted up his being unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive the

Barakah (Blessing) from אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), and justice from The Alhym of his salvation. 6 This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek Your presence.

**Psalms 27:7:** Hear, אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), when I cry with my voice. Have compassion also on me, and answer me. 8 When You said, "Seek my presence, my heart said to You, "Your presence אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), will I seek." 9 Hide not Your presence far from me; put not your servant away in anger: You have been my help; leave me not nor forsake me, Alhym of my salvation.

**Psalms 34:15:** The eyes of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) are upon the just, and His ears are open unto their cry. 16 The presence of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. 17 The just cry, and אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) is near to those who are of a broken heart; and saves such as be of a contrite vital essence.

**Psalms 67:1:** אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) show favor to us, and Barak (Bless) us; and cause His presence to shine upon us; Selah. 2 that Your way may be known upon earth, Your saving health among all nations.

**Psalms 69:16:** Hear me, אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), for Your kindness is good. Turn to me according to the multitude of Your compassions. 17 And hide not Your presence from Your servant, for I am in trouble. Hear me speedily.

**Psalms 80:1:** Give ear, O Shepherd of Yasharal (Israel), You who leads Yusep (Joseph) like a flock; You who dwells between the cherubim, shine forth. 2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh stir up Your strength, and come and save us. 3 Turn us again, אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), and cause Your presence to shine, and we shall be delivered. 4 אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) of Assemblies, how long will You be angry against the prayer of Your people? 5 You feed them with the bread of tears; and give them tears to drink in great measure. 6 You make us a strife unto our neighbors: and our enemies laugh among themselves. 7 Turn us again, אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) of Assemblies, and cause Your presence to shine; and we shall be delivered.

**Psalms 105:1:** O give thanks to אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah); call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people. 2 Sing to Him; sing psalms to Him: talk of all His wondrous works. 3 Glory in His set apart name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah). 4 Seek אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), and His strength. Seek His presence evermore.

**Isaiah 59:1:** Behold, אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah)'s hand is not shortened so that it cannot save; no is His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your Alhym, and your sins have hidden His presence from you so that He will not hear. 3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perverseness. 4 None calls for justice, nor any pleads for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

**Isaiah 64:7:** And there is none that calls upon Your name, that stirs up himself to take hold of You: for You have hid your presence from us, and have consumed us, because of our iniquities.

**John 14:6** OWYAH (Yahusha) answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**John 6:44** "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

The presence of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) is an awesome thing to encounter. If He grants you access into His presence it is especially for the purpose of Barakah (Blessing) you. You have a role to play in which experience you have. It's all based on whether or not you choose willingly to believe in Him and his commandments/Sabbaths that you are allowed entrance into his Presence.

## **WORSHIP IS KEY**

Worship is important because it's the "key" to Qadoshness (Holiness) and אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah)'s presence and the secret to true joy and happiness. What else could be more important? Without being Qadosh (holy), we cannot worship. Without being worshippers, we'll not be able to enter His presence; without His presence, we'll have no joy; and, without joy, **Nehemiah 8:10** tells us, we'll have no strength ("the joy of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) is our strength." **Psalm 16:11**) And I'm convinced that without these things, we won't be able to withstand the trials that אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) allows in our lives.

Worship truly is the most important thing a Chosen believer can learn to do. Worship is the reason we were created in the first place.

**Revelation 4:11** tells us that אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) created us “for His pleasure.” He yearns for our fellowship and our love. Therefore, our true relationship with Him is shown forth in our worship. Surrender is Key, So worship flows from love. We worship what we love. The word used in Scripture for the verb “to love” is the Greek word agapao, which means “to totally give ourselves over to something” - to surrender all to it. אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) desires that we give back to Him the life that He granted us in the first place. In other words, total relinquishment is a choice that we make out of our own free will and out of our love for Him. Love for אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), then, is not just an emotional feeling, but a complete surrender of ourselves, heart, mind and soul. We have “put off” our sin and self and have “put on” Mashiach. On the other hand, when we don’t know how to love אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)—how to completely surrender our lives to Him—we’ll not be able to truly worship Him. Love comes before worship. In summary, we can only worship אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) to the degree that we love Him and to the degree to which we are surrendered, cleansed and Qadosh (Holy).

### **SCRIPTURE TO USHER US INTO THE PRESENCE OF אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)**

**Isaiah 50:4** “The Sovereign אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) has given me his words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will.”

**Jeremiah 33:3** “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

**Psalms 46:10** “He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am Alhym; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.’”

**Psalms 42:1-2** “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my Alhym My soul thirsts for אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), for the living Alhym (God). When can I go and meet with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)?”

**Psalms 84:1-2** “How lovely is your dwelling place, אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of אַיָּהּ (Yahuah)...”

**James 4:8** “Come near to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

**Psalms 27:8** “My heart says of you, ‘Seek his face!’ Your face, אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), I will seek.”

**Hebrews 10:19-22** “Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Qodesh (Holy) Place by the blood of OWYָּהּ (Yahusha)... let us draw near to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that Amunah (Faith) brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

### **FIVE (5) THINGS WE CAN DO TO DRAW NEAR TO THE PRESENCE OF אַיָּהּ (YAHUAH)**

(1) The (1st) first thing we can do to draw nearer to אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) is to make a daily habit of confessing our Sin to Him. If Sin is the barrier in our relationship with אַיָּהּ (Yahuah), then confession removes that barrier. When we confess our Sins before אַיָּהּ (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, אַיָּהּ (Yahuah).” It is the heartfelt repentance (turning away from Sin), recognizing that our Sin is an offense to a Qadosh Alhym. It is the confession of one who realizes that his Sin is what nailed OWYָּהּ (Yahusha) to the tree. It is the cry of the publican in

**Luke 18** who said, “אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) be merciful to me a Sinner!” As King David wrote, “The sacrifices of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) are a broken Ruch (spirit); a broken and contrite heart, O אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), you will not despise” **Psalms 51:17**.

(2) The (2nd) second thing we can do to draw nearer to אֱלֹהִים (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 אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah). Just relax, get somewhere peaceful, and begin a conversation with אֱלֹהִים (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 אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah). Any relationship with meaning is one that has great communication. In **James 4:8** we read; “Come near to אֱלֹהִים (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 אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), He will automatically draw near to you. Cleanse your hands; and purify your hearts: focus your mind. Start to seek אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah). Come out from the world, separate yourself from the things of the world, and fix your heart and mind on things above.

אֱלֹהִים (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 remain in his presence 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 אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) an opportunity to draw us closer.

The Gospels often record **אֱלֹהִים (Yahusha)** separated Himself away to commune with His Father in prayer. Prayer is much more than simply a way to ask אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) for things we need or want. Consider the model prayer that **אֱלֹהִים (Yahusha)** gives His disciples in **Matthew 6:9-13**. The (3) first three petitions in his prayer are directed towards אֱלֹהִים (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 אֱלֹהִים (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 אֱלֹהִים (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 nearer to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) is to listen when אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) speaks. Now, besides spending time in prayer, we need to also spend time in the Word. If reading Scripture is listening to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) speak to us, speaking to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) is accomplished through prayer. Many today are chasing a supernatural experience of hearing אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah)’s voice, but the apostle Kepha (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**.

In Scripture, we “hear” אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah)’s voice speaking to us. It is through the “אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah)-breathed” Scriptures that we become “thoroughly equipped for every good work” according to **2 Timothy 3:16-17**.

So, if we desire to draw nearer in the presence of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), we should read His Word regularly. In reading His Word, we are “listening” to אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) speak through it by his Ruch (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 enter into the presence of אֱלֹהִים (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 אֱלֹהִים (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 אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), and he will have mercy on them, and to our

Alahym (God), for he will freely pardon.” Here **אֱלֹהִים** (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 **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)’s ways. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah).” Open up your understanding to see **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and His ways. He said; “His thoughts are not your thoughts:” He thinks differently about things than you do.

Realize **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) is Alhym (God) and you and I are just human beings who think with a natural mind. We think as created beings while **אֱלֹהִים** (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 **אֱלֹהִים** (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 **אֱלֹהִים** (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 nearer to **אֱלֹהִים** (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 **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) to His people to come and worship him (for example **Psalms 95:1-2**) Oh come, let us sing to **אֱלֹהִים** (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!

**אֱלֹהִים** (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 **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)’s presence in worship, but it also gives us an opportunity to fellowship with **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)’s people. As we come into the presence of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) in worship and fellowship with His people, we can’t help but go deeper into presence of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) as a result.

(5) Finally, a closer more intimate relationship with **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) is built upon a life of obedience. **וַיִּשְׁמַע** (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 **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) through obedience, resist HaSatan (the devil), and draw near to **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah), and He will draw near to us **James 4:7-8**.

Shaul (Paul) tells us in Romans that our obedience is our “living sacrifice” of thanksgiving to **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) **Romans 12:1**. We must keep in mind that all Scriptural exhortations to obedience are presented as our response to the grace of **אֱלֹהִים** (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 **אֱלֹהִים** (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 **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and allow him to shine his glorious presence upon you.

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. **Psalms 145:18**

“**אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth (Torah).”

## 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, Qadosh 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 enter into the presence of יְהוָה (Yahuah), all we need do is follow what the Word of יְהוָה (Yahuah) has to tell us. He tells us to present ourselves Qadosh (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 nearer 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 Qadosh (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 Qadosh (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!

And you shall love יְהוָה (Yahuah) your Alhym 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 Alhym, 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 יְהוָה (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 Alhym 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.

Again **וְהוֹרֵא** (Yahusha) spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” **John 8:12**

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Shamym (Heaven). **Matthew 5:14-16** “

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a Qadosh (Holy) nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **1 Peter 2:9**

For יְהוָה (Yahuah), who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of יְהוָה (Yahuah) in the face of **וְהוֹרֵא** (Yahusha) Ha Mashiach. **2 Corinthians 4:6**

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **Matthew 5:14**

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalms 119:105**

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah). Walk as children of light **Ephesians 5:8**

And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. **Daniel 12:3**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **John 1:5**

אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? **Psalms 27:1**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) has risen upon you. **Isaiah 60:1**

That you may be blameless and innocent, children of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **Philippians 2:15**

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. **Matthew 13:43**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of אֱלֹהִים (Yahusha) his Son cleanses us from all sin. **1 John 1:5-7**

For אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) has commanded us, saying, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” **Acts 13:47**

For anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Mashiach will shine on you.” **Ephesians 5:14**

But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. **Proverbs 4:18**

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. **Psalms 119:130**

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. **Revelation 21:23**

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Shamym (Heaven). **Matthew 5:13-16**

For it is you who light my lamp; אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) my Alhym (God) lightens my darkness. **Psalms 18:28**

In their case the Alhym (god) of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Mashiach, who is the image of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah). **2 Corinthians 4:4**

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah).” **John 3:19-21**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. **Isaiah 60:1-3**

Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous. **Psalm 112:4**

And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. **Matthew 17:2**

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. **John 1:9**

Now therefore, O our Alhym (God), listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah), make your face (presence) to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. **Daniel 9:17**

Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your Qadosh (Holy) hill and to your dwelling! **Psalm 43:3**

“No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. **Luke 8:16**

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) shall be your rear guard. **Isaiah 58:8**

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **James 1:17**

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Mashiach I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. **Philippians 2:14-16**

when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Mashiach will shine on you.” **Ephesians 5:13-14** But

Who is like the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his face is changed. **Ecclesiastes 8:1**

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the chosen believers in light. **Colossians 1:12**

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. **Romans 13:11-14**

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

Begin to seek His Face. “And these Words which I am Commanding you today shall be in your heart,” **Deuteronomy 6:6**