

Drawing Near

I. A Season of Encounter

Firestorm Encounters

Illinois Vineyard report — Outpouring

Campuses

Girls Gone Bible

Hit Song in Israel — HaShem Yitbarach Tamid Ohev Oti (Yah the Blessed Always (only) Loves Me)

The #1 GOOGLE search in Israel in 2024 is PSALMS!

II. God Draws Near

A. He Comes to Us and Calls to Us in our Shame and Failure

[Genesis 3:8–9](#) And they heard the sound of **the LORD God walking in the garden** in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 **But the Lord God called** to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

[John 1:29](#) The next day [John the Baptizer] saw **Jesus coming toward him**, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

C. He Runs to Those Ruined by Sin and Addiction as a Loving Father

[Luke 15:17](#) But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!’20 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.**”

***perceived, understood, had insight**

III. How We Draw Near

A. Turn to Seek Him. Our Troubles → His Victory

(Repentance — Transformation of the Mind)

[James 4:8](#) Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. ...

[Zechariah 1:3](#) ... **Return to me**, says the Lord of hosts, and **I will return to you**, says the Lord of hosts.”

[Romans 2:4](#) Or do you presume on (NKJ- despise) the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that **God’s kindness** is meant to lead you to repentance?”

REPENTANCE — A FOUNDATIONAL CHANGE IN HOW WE PERCEIVE REALITY... He LOVES ME, OH HOW HE LOVES ME...

[Jeremiah 29:11](#) For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare (SHALOM) and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. NIV - to prosper you not to harm you NKJ - thoughts of PEACE not of EVIL

12 Then you will **call** upon me and **come** and **pray** to me, and I will **hear** you. 13 You will **seek me** and **find me**, when you **seek me with all your heart**.

14 I will be **found by you**, declares the Lord, and **I will restore your fortunes** and gather you ... and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

B. Listen — He is speaking... start listening... you will start hearing

[Deuteronomy 6:4](#) “**Hear**, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ **You shall love** the LORD your God with **all your heart** and with **all your soul** and with **all your might**. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

[Revelation 2:7](#) He who has an ear, **let him hear** what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who **conquers** (overcomes) I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” (2.11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13)

[Revelation 3:20](#) **Behold**, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone **hears my voice and opens the door**, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”

Take time to Listen

C. Behold — take time to ponder, envision

[John 1:1](#) In the **beginning** was the **Word**, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**. 2 He was in the beginning **with** God. 3 All things were made (or *became*) **through** him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 **In him** was **life**, and the life was the **light** of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

[John 1:14](#) NKJ And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and **we beheld His glory**, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

[John 1:29](#) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “**Behold, the Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world!”

[John 19:5](#) ... the **crown of thorns** and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “**Behold the man!**”

[John 19:14](#)... “**Behold your King!**”

[2 Corinthians 3:18](#) And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#) Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; **behold, the new has come.**” **all things**

[1 John 3:1](#) NKJ **Behold what manner of love** the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

[John 6:32](#) Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was **not Moses** who gave you the bread from heaven, but **my Father** gives you **the true bread** from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is **he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**”

D. Sing! Even in the dark...

[Psalm 22:1](#) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

3 Yet you are **holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

NET — YOU SIT AS KING

Holy — Not of this world.

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IV. Communion — Sharing the Same Out of this world REALITY... God's Gift of Love

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#) NKJ Therefore, if ***anyone is in Christ***, he is a ***new creation***; old things have passed away; behold, ***all things have become new***.

A new reality — not of this world. In a different plane of existence. Still have the same blood type? Fingerprints. But, the old man is dead.

[1 Corinthians 11:23](#) For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

[1 John 1:1](#) ***That which was from the beginning***, which we have ***heard***, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and ***proclaim to you the eternal life***, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have ***fellowship*** with us; and indeed our ***fellowship*** is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that ***God is light***, and in him is ***no darkness at all***. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we ***walk in the light***, as he is in the light, ***we have fellowship with one another***, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Let's enter into communion with the Father and the Son.

V. The Call to Dwell, Remain, Abide, Live in This

E. Dwell in Uncreated, Limitless Love

[John 14:10](#) “10 Do you not believe that I am **in** the Father and the Father is **in** me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father **who dwells in me** does his works.”

[John 14:20](#) In that day you will know that I am **in** my Father, and you **in** me, and I **in** you.”

[John 15:4](#) **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.”

[John 15:9](#) **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**. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

[1 John 4:16](#) So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and **whoever abides in love abides in God**, and **God abides in him**.

VI. Response