

Drawing Near — Gratitude

I. In a Season of Encounter

Spiritual Hunger & Thirst ... recognition of emptiness

[Matthew 5:6](#) “**Blessed** are those who **hunger and thirst** for **righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.”

Outpourings! Universities! Conversions! Bible Sales in 2024! #1 GOOGLE search in Israel - PSALMS!

Better than the Jesus Movement (1968-1972) and more...

II. Drawing Near — Practices that Will Change Your Life

A. Turn to Seek Him

(Repentance — **Transformation** of the Mind)

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

REPENTANCE — A FOUNDATIONAL CHANGE IN HOW WE PERCEIVE REALITY... He LOVES ME, OH HOW HE LOVES ME... Troubles can lead us into Transformation.

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

1. *Love will INHABIT you...*

[Deuteronomy 6:4](#) “**Hear**, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ **You shall love** the LORD your God ...

2. *Faith will Grow*

[Romans 10:17](#) So **faith comes from hearing**, and hearing **through** the **word...**

[1 John 5:4](#) For **everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world**. And this is **the victory** that has overcome the world—**our faith**.

C. Behold His Love — ponder, envision... this will transform you

[1 John 3:1](#) NKJ **Behold what manner of love** (WHAT SORT, HOW GREAT, HOW WONDERFUL) 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. 2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and

what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

D. Praise and Give Thanks to Him... even in the dark... His Kingdom Comes

[Psalm 22:1](#) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far ...? 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

III. Gratitude — Entrance into Abundant Life

A. Gratitude — Not a magic trick, or mantra, but FAITH at the highest level.

1. **The Will of God *for You!***

[1 Thessalonians 5:16–18](#) **Rejoice *always***, 17 **pray *without ceasing***, 18 **give *thanks in all circumstances***; for this is the **will of God** in Christ Jesus **for you**.

Praying is listening, not just talking. Talking is important... But He already knows what we think... we want to know Him and His thoughts... (all His thoughts toward us are SHALOM)

We can pray and not fully believe.

2. **Realization of his Faithfulness, Love, and Compassion**

Gratitude can be the greatest and most powerful expression of **faith**.

When I thank him with all my heart in the worst situation, I **realize** that HE has me in His hands... No one can snatch us out of His hands ([Jn 10.27-28](#))

My faith is grounded in **His faithfulness ... love... compassion**

Abba Father is AFFECTIONATE and COMPASSIONATE! **Everything** He does is **always** for the **good!**

([Romans 8:28](#) And we know that for those who love God **all things work together for good**, for those who are called according to his purpose.)

You might find that **the only way to solve your problem** at its roots is **by giving thanks**.

When we give thanks in all circumstances, our **faith in His faithfulness** is perfected. We live in love. We find ourselves inviting Him and His divine abundance into every area of our lives.

3. Gratitude is Basic to Praise, Worship, and Abundant Life

It is an entrance into the KINGDOM of HEAVEN... Don't WORRY...but

[Matthew 6:33](#) **Seek first** the kingdom of God and **his righteousness**, and **all these things** will be added to you.

B. Worship — The Way into His Realm

My own journey to FAITH in JESUS... Sensed His real presence in worship... Worship is both an expression and an invitation...

[Psalm 100](#) A Psalm for giving thanks.

Eight Psalms Focused on God's Reign (93-100). **In the eighth one**, all nations are invited to join!

1 **Make a joyful noise** to the LORD, **all the earth!** (Shout for joy! Shout out praises! Cry out!)

2 **Serve** the LORD with **gladness!** (*all people*) *Lifestyle ... whatever we do*

Come into his **presence** with **singing!** (*all people*)

3 **Know** that the **LORD, he is God!**

WHO HE IS AND WHO WE ARE (all people)

{It is he who **made us**, (*all people*)

and **we are his**; (*all people*)

we are his people, (*all people*)

and the **sheep of his pasture**. } (*all people*)

4 **Enter** his gates with **thanksgiving**, (*temple vicinity*)

and his courts with **praise!** (*inner courts*)

Give thanks to him;

Bless his **name!**

ONTOLOGY:

5 For the **LORD is good**;

his **steadfast love** endures forever, (chesed has no end)
and his **faithfulness** to all generations.” (emuna to every generation)

7 imperatives — SHOUT, SERVE, COME, KNOW, ENTER, GIVE THANKS, BLESS

VI. Invitation and PROMISE—

Turn, Listen, Behold, PRAISE, and THANK Him... You will KNOW his GOODNESS, LOVE, and FAITHFULNESS