



A DEEPER EXPERIENCE

JULY 20, 2026

JAMES 4:8; COLOSSIANS 3:2; COLOSSIANS 3:16 & JOHN 15:9-10

Did you know that not only is it possible to have a close personal relationship with God, but He actually wants it to happen! Abraham was a man of great faith, and as a result "he was called God's friend" (**James 2:23**). Jesus said to His followers, "You are my friends" (**John 15:14**). This is how it is with God. Yes, you believe He exists, and that's good. But it's only the first step. Now, He invites you to discover who He is and how much He loves you through the pages of His Word, the Bible. Then, He invites you to commit your life to Jesus Christ by asking Him to come into your life.

But that isn't the end, either! Every day, you can turn to God in prayer and hear Him speaking to you through His Word. Your relationship **can grow** also with the help of other believers. Don't delay, but open your heart to Christ, and then learn to walk with Him every day. Utilize the above scriptures in the order they have been given. Each one represents a theme. It is your choice if you want better, more and completion in your relationship with Him.

Draw near to God: **James 4:8** instructs us to move from internal conflict and spiritual wavering toward a resolved, single-minded devotion to God.

Focus more on God: **Colossians 3:2**. In this context, the "things of the earth" are associated with ungodly activities. This does not mean that believers should ignore all earthly concerns. It does, however, mean that believers ought to give their time and attention to things pleasing to God, rather than things pleasing to men.

Dwell Richly in God's Word: **Colossians 3:16** suggests a life transformed by God's Word, leading to a deeper, more satisfying spiritual walk.

Abiding in Christ's love: **John 15:9-10**. The Spirit helps, enabling the intimacy and obedience necessary for this relationship.

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 119:105

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Effective prayer is the fruit of a relationship with God, not a technique for acquiring blessings.