

How to Get Close to God (Without Losing Your Mind)

by — Steve Martin, the Grace Dude

Scroll through Instagram or YouTube long enough, and you'll be hit with a flood of spiritual advice:

- “10 ways to get closer to God.”
- “5 habits of deeply connected Christians.”
- “Secrets to an on-fire faith.”

You've seen it:

- Start your morning with a “quiet time.”
- Read your Bible daily (bonus points if you highlight stuff).
- Pray longer. Knees on the floor. Preferably near a hard surface.
- Witness to strangers – because apparently nothing says love like threatening someone with hell.
- Be at church every time the doors are open.
- Get busy. Volunteer. Sign up. Sign in.
- Go to conferences where “anointed speakers” tell you new ways to chase God
- Get an accountability partner to guilt you when you slip.
- Memorize James. Especially 4:8. “*Draw near to God ...*” You know the drill.

Oh – and don't forget: if it doesn't *feel* like it's working, that's on *you*. Try harder. Be more sincere. Cry if possible. God loves tears.

News flash:

God is already close.
You don't have to earn His nearness. You don't have to work your way into His presence.
He's been here the whole time.

The problem isn't distance. It's awareness.

And awareness isn't something *you* produce by checking boxes. It's something *God* gives – when He's ready.

Let's be real about James:

That letter wasn't written to you.
It was written “*to the twelve tribes scattered abroad.*”
Different group. Different message. Different playbook.

Our mail?

That's in Ephesians and Colossians.

And Paul's not handing out to-do lists – he's unveiling a mystery.

Let's peek at Ephesians 1:

- *He chose us before the foundation of the world.*
- *He destined us for adoption.*
- *He lavished grace on us, verses.*
- And here's the kicker: *He made known to us the secret of His will... and it delighted Him to do it.*

God's not hiding.
He's revealing.

And if you've seen it – even just a glimpse – it's because He opened your eyes. Not because you nailed your spiritual checklist.

He sums it up in verse 18:

“The eyes of your heart having been enlightened.”

You didn't open them. He did.

Now over in Colossians 2, Paul takes a sledgehammer to the religious checklist:

- *Don't let anyone judge you by a Sabbath or a shadow.*
- *Don't follow people puffed up with visions and false humility.*
- *Why do you submit to rules like 'Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch'?*

And then this mic-drop in verse 23:

- *These things have an appearance of wisdom ... but are of no value in restraining the flesh.*

Translation: The list looks holy. Feels spiritual. But it doesn't change you.

Even now, for those of us who've been given this realization, it's not always consistent. Some days I feel it. Some days I don't.

That's okay. It's not up to me to keep it alive.

There's a day coming when the fog will lift for everyone.

Not just for you. Not just for me. But for *everyone*.

At the resurrection, we'll all see clearly – no striving, no earning, no trying to “feel close.”

As my friend Mike Owens says, we'll all be hit with **post-resurrection amazement**.

And in that moment, every eye will open. Every heart will awaken. Every person will realize what's

been true all along:

God never was far.
And He never will be.