

## HOW DO I GET CLOSER TO GOD?

I get closer to God by desiring to have a relationship with Him every day. Acknowledging my sins and turning away from them is another way I am trying to get closer to God. Indeed, I pray every day and study God's word as well, I still need that intimacy that will enhance the mark of the Holy Spirit in my life day and night.

Unfortunately, I find myself overwhelmed with the struggle for worldly desires and the quest to fulfill them. I have a seven-day work schedule for example because I have to support myself and here in the US and the family back home at the same time. As the result, I have no time left that will enable me spend time in God's services as required. I feel the guilt in me about my service to the Lord which I know is not pleasing. I am trying however to get closer to Him and trusting He will get closer to me as well as it is written in James 4:8.

My first retreat was and an incredible time with the Lord. I experienced burdens in my heart for God like it never happened before. I never experience instant audible voice speaking during my stillness periods, but I have since then continually been challenged in all my meditations to unmasked myself and focus on the Lord.

Another experience I had from reading Guyon and Biehl's books during my retreat is that it appears more than just the ordinary reading I have done before. My understanding about those very same passages or verses I have read before was quite different this time. Chapter 8 of Jeanne Guyon's book for example arrested my spirit. I was attracted to Matthew 22: 37 which talks about "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.....".

This is a verse I have read I do not remember how many dozen times since I became a Christian. When I came across this passage, I read it like two different times and then began to reflect on my life as a believer. The more I examined my behavior, the more I get to realized that my service to God is more from my lips than from my heart. Do I really love God? Yes, but have I lived a life pleasing to Him? NO.

I then took time out to meditate on how to overcome those things that occupied my life. after that period, I came out with a restless spirit which been reminding me during every lonely period of the need to deal with them. On one of the Sundays after this experience, I had to change my Sunday school lessons that I earlier prepared to teach because my mind will not infer the lesson as it misrepresents my true self.

So, in Stillness, I asked God to unmask me and make me the person He want me to be. I want to have the freedom to do His work, boldness to rebuke the lies of the enemy and to be able to teach His word with clarity. I want to experience total conversion in my life to be able to run to God than running to myself as it is mentioned in chapter 10 of "Experiencing God Through Prayer". I need God to help me focus on the creator than the creation.

