

HOW TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

1 John 1:9; John 6:37

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Every believer in Jesus should want to be as close to Him as possible, but sadly that is just not the case. So many have drifted away, allowed other things, other people to become priorities in their lives instead of Jesus being "number one" He just is not. Maybe He was once, but for most Christians, He just isn't anymore. In every believer's heart there is a desire to be closer to the Lord. Jesus will welcome every believer back who may have drifted away. So, how does one get closer to God?

I. ONE NEEDS TO GET HIS/HER ATTITUDE AND THOUGHTS CLEAN

1. Proverbs 23:7; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Matthew 6:33; 22:37-38; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 10:5
James 4:3
2. Ask God to reveal any sinful attitudes or thoughts that need confessing and forsaking, one by one.
 - self-will
 - failure to make God holy
 - anger
 - bitterness
 - pride
 - impurity
 - complaining
 - lukewarmness
 - fear
3. As God reveals things that need to be changed, confess what He reveals and determine to fully repent one by one.
 - Ask the Lord to fill and empower with the Holy Spirit.

II. ONE NEEDS TO GET HIS/HER WORDS AND RELATIONSHIPS CLEAN

1. Romans 12:10; Ephesians 4:29; Matthew 5:23-24; 6:14-15; John 13:34-35; 17:21
2. As God to show any words or relationships that need to be given up or changed, one by one.
 - angry, bitter, harsh words
 - refusal to ask forgiveness
 - refusal to truly forgive
 - wrong or improper relationships
 - having relationships that appear wrong
 - neglect of the family
 - being wrong with other church members
3. As God reveals things, confess what He reveals and ask for Grace to fully repent, one by one.
 - Ask the Lord to fill and empower with the Holy Spirit.

III. ONE NEEDS TO BE CLEANSED FROM SINS OF COMMISSION AND OMISSION

1. Psalms 51:3; 1 John 3:4; Luke 12:47; James 4:17
2. As God to reveal any sins of commission or omission that need to be confessed or forsaken, one by one.
 - the idolatry of placing things or people ahead of God.
 - immorality or viewing uncleanness
 - words that are unkind or unclean
 - neglecting God's Word.
 - neglecting Prayer
 - failure to tithe
 - neglecting damaged relationships
 - neglecting Christian service
 - failure to witness
3. As God reveals things that need to be surrendered and cleansed, confess those things and claim His fullness and power by faith, one by one.
 - Ask the Lord to fill and empower with the Holy Spirit.

IV. ONE NEEDS TO BE CLEANSED FROM REJECTING THE FULL LORDSHIP OF JESUS

1. Luke 6:46; 14:27; John 12:24; Luke 9:62
2. Ask God to reveal any areas not fully yielded or ways that His voice has been ignored, one by one.
 - delayed or partial obedience
 - tolerating areas of ongoing sin
 - lack of full yielding
 - refusal to fully surrender
 - self-reliance
 - resisting God's acts of getting attention
3. As God reveals areas that need to be cleansed and changed, confess those things and trust Him to fill with His Holy Spirit and power, one by one.

CONCLUSION:

1. Luke 11:13; Ephesians 5:18; Philippians 4:13
2. Once one has worked through the areas of his/her life that need cleansing and changing, he/she can then pray with great confidence and ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit.
3. Every Christian needs to check with the Lord daily about what needs to be corrected, changed or omitted in his/her life and then do whatever is necessary to establish that close relationship with the Lord.