**God Draws Near To Us**

**Vivien Hibbert**

**We are encouraged to seek the face or presence of God:**

*1Ch 16:11 Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!*

*2Ch 7:14 “if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

*Ps 24:6 This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face. Selah*

*Ps 27:8 When You said, “Seek My face,” My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”*

*Ps 105:4 Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!*

*Pr 7:15 So I came out to meet you, Diligently to seek your face, And I have found you.*

*So 2:14 “O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret places of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely.”*

*Is 55:6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.*

*Ho 5:15 I will return again to My place Till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.”*

**We can draw near to the Lord, but on these seven occasions His presence draws near to us:**

**1. When our hearts are broken:** ***Ps 34:18*** *The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.*

**2. When we call on Him:** ***Ps. 45:18*** *The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.*

**3. When we walk in the fear of the Lord (the fear of the lord is to know, worship, and obey Him):** ***Ps 85:9*** *Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.*

**4. When we seek Him through His Word:** ***Ps. 119:151*** *You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth.* He is near through the Word

**5. When we walk in righteousness:** ***Is 51:5*** *My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth…*

***Is. 51:5*** *My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm.* (NIV)

**6. When we draw near to the Lord:** ***James 4:8*** *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you…*

**7. When we draw near through the blood of Jesus:** ***Eph. 2:13*** *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

Let us run to Him and draw near—***Heb. 10:22*** *let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*