First Steps

How difficult is it to draw near to God?

Without the help of the Spirit of God, it is impossible. You must be born again (Luke 11:13 and John 3). Please pray through these passages repeatedly until you establish living communication with God.

“εἰ οὖν ὑμεῖς πονηροὶ ὑπάρχοντες οἴδατε δόματα ἀγαθὰ διδόναι τοῖς τέκνοις ὑμῶν, πόσῳ μᾶλλον Ὁ Πατὴρ Ὁ ἐξ Οὐρανοῦ δώσει Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον τοῖς αἰτοῦσιν Αὐτόν.” — Luke 11:13

“If therefore you, evil rulers, had known to give good gifts to your children: how much more, The Father out of Heaven will give [the] Devoted Spirit to them [if] they ask Him?” — Luke 11:13

“There was a man of the Pharisees, Nicodemus his name, a ruler of the Jews. This [man] came to [Jesus] at night. He said to Him, my Great One, we know [for a fact] that You had come from God, a teacher: for, no one is able to do these the signs that you do, unless God would be with Him.

“In response, Jesus said to him, Amen, amen, I tell you, unless someone would be begotten from above, they are not able to see the kingdom of God.

“Nicodemus told Him, How is a person able to be begotten, being old? They are not able to enter their mother’s belly a second [time] to be begotten, are they?

“In response, Jesus [said], Amen, amen, I tell to you, unless someone would be begotten out of water[[1]](#footnote-1) and Spirit[[2]](#footnote-2), they are not able enter into the kingdom of God. That having been begotten of the flesh is flesh. That having been begotten of the of the Spirit is spirit. You should not wonder that I said to you, it is necessary for you to be begotten from above. The wind blows where it wishes. You hear its sound; but, you had not known [for a fact] from where it comes, [or] where it goes. So are all being begotten of the Spirit.

“In response, Nicodemus said to Him, how is it possible for these [things] to happen?

“In response, Jesus said to him, you are the teacher of Israel; and you do not know these [things]?[[3]](#footnote-3) Amen, amen, I tell you that what we had known [for a fact], we speak. What we had seen, we [give in] evidence. You do not receive our evidence. If I tell you [about things] on earth, and you do not believe; how will you believe if I would tell you [about things] in the heavens? No one had ascended into the heaven, except the one descending out of the heaven, the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert; even so, it is necessary [that] the Son of Man [is] to be lifted up: that all believing in Him would have eternal life: for, thus God loved the world; so, He gave His only-begotten Son; that all believing in Him would not be destroyed; but, would have eternal life: for, God did not send the Son into the world that He would judge the world; but, that the world would be saved through Him. The one believing in Him is not judged; yet, the unbelieving one is already judged: because, he had not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. Now, this is the judgment: that light had come into the world. People loved the darkness rather than the light: for, their works have been evil: for, all practicing worthlessness hate the light. They do not come toward the light, that their works would not be exposed. Now, the one doing the truth comes toward the light, that his works would be showed forth openly, that they are working in God. — John 3:1-21

Once you enter into a living relationship of constant communication and communion with the Father and the Son through the Spirit, you will have fresh insights every day.

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded.” — James 4:8

If, or once, you are born again, pray your armor on (Ephesians 6:10–18). You must have your defensive armor on to enter into spiritual combat.

“Finally, be empowered in [the] Lord, and in the reign of His strength. Be clothed with the whole defense of God, to empower you to stand against the methods of the devil. Because our struggle is not against blood and flesh, but

* against the ἀρχάς (heads),
* against the ἐξουσίας (authorities),
* against the κοσμοκράτορας (world-rulers) of this darkness,
* against spiritually [active] evil in the heavenlies.

Through this take up the whole defense of God, that you would be empowered to withstand in the evil day, and accomplishing everything, to stand. Stand thus,

* being wrapped around your hips in truth,
* being clothed with the breastplate of righteousness,
* having tied the Gospel of the peace under the feet in readiness,
* in everything taking up the shield of faith, in which you will be empowered to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil,
* receive the helmet of salvation,
* and the sword of the Spirit, which is the speech of God,

through every prayer and request, praying earnestly in every season in [the] Spirit, in this keeping vigil in all perseverance and in request for all the devoted….” — Ephesians 6:10-18

I recommend that everyone read 22 Psalms a day, counting the 119th Psalm as 4 Psalms because of its great length: thus, reading through the book of Psalms every week.[[4]](#footnote-4) Repeat this practice for many months: this will give you fresh understanding of the OT and new insights into the NT.

Here is the 151 Psalm:

“I was small among my brethren, and youngest in my father’s house: I tended my father’s sheep. 2 My hands formed a musical instrument, and my fingers tuned a psaltery. 3 And who shall tell my Lord? The Lord himself, he himself hears. 4 He sent forth his angel, and took me from my father’s sheep, and he anointed me with the oil of his anointing. 5 My brothers were handsome and tall; but the Lord did not take pleasure in them. 6 I went forth to meet the Philistine; and he cursed me by his idols. 7 But I drew his own sword, and beheaded him, and removed reproach from the children of Israel.”

These insights will bring you closer and closer to David: but, more than that they will show you Jesus Christ as David sees Him.

It is ultimately not David that removes reproach from the children of Israel: but, Jesus.

Be well!

[[5]](#footnote-5)

1. This is a normal physical human birth. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This is an abnormal miraculous heavenly spiritual birth; in which, through prayer, the Holy Spirit of God begins to dwell within us and communicate with us, teaching our human spirits about Jesus and the Father, mostly from the Old Testament. This kind of evidence is not magic: it requires an active and sometimes painful prayer life… prayer is a toilsome process… not a walk in the park. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Every member of the Sanhedrin under Moses was given the Spirit to understand and teach the Law to the people. It is amazing that Nicodemus does not have the gift of the Spirit. It is even more amazing that he does not understand what Jesus is telling him. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 22 x 7 = 154; 150 + 1 (for Psalm 151) + 3 (for the extra credit given to Psalm 119) = 154 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. If you have been blessed or helped by any of these meditations, please repost, share, or use any of them as you wish. No rights are reserved. They are designed and intended for your free participation. They were freely received, and are freely given. No other permission is required for their use. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)