

**INTIMACY 101**  
**“Drawing Near To God”**  
**James 4:8 and Revelation 3:20**

*“Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you. ...”* James 4:8 (NLT)

*“Look, I’m standing at the door and knocking. If anyone listens to my voice and opens the door, I’ll come in and we’ll eat together.”* Revelation 3:20 (GWT)

**INTIMACY 101—A FEW INSIGHTS**

**1. We enjoy intimacy with a **forgetful** God.**

*“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”*  
Hebrews 8:12 (NIV)

**2. God doesn’t do **watered down**.**

*“I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.’ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, ‘Follow me!’”* John 21:18-19 (NIV)

**3. Intimacy leads to the **mystical**.**

The faith of the Scriptures is a mystical faith; it is more than knowledge. Intimacy with God is always more than information.

*“God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”*  
John 4:24 (NIV)

*“I am the good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me ... I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice ...”* John 10:14-16 (NIV)

**4. Your human power will be **incapacitated**.**

Jacob wrestles with God’s representative and receives a blessing.  
(Genesis 32:22-32)

*“When the man saw that He could not overpower him, He touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the Man.”* Genesis 32:25 (NIV)

*“... But to keep me from getting puffed up, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from getting proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time He said, ‘... My power works best in your weakness.’ So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me. ... For when I am weak, then I am strong.”* 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NLT)

God can’t give us the blessing we desperately need until He incapacitates us at the center of our **human power**.

To live in intimacy with God means that at some point and time God will touch us at the core of our being—the core of our strength—and teach us that victory comes through weakness.

*“So he said to me, ‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.”* Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and of self-discipline.”* 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

**5. You become God **taught**.**

*“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.”* Psalms 1:2 (NIV)

When God speaks, things change—all creation exists because **“God spoke.”**

*“... I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily bread.”*  
Job 23:12 (NIV)

**A. Lessons from Psalm 119—When God teaches**

**Verse 97:**

- Makes you **wiser** than your enemies.
- Gives you more **insight** than your teachers.
- Gives you more **understanding** than the elders.

**Verses 101-103:**

- You get insight and understanding into **evil**.

**Verse 105:**

- You get **illumination**.