

## FIVE ATTRIBUTES NEEDED FOR A CLOSE CONNECTION WITH GOD

Could this be you? You love God, but He feels distant. There's a longing to connect, but you're not sure how. You've tried doing all the regular "church girl" things but still, you feel empty. You don't need one more "should," just a little encouragement. Maybe these will help.

**You pay attention to your longing: "I stretch out my hands to You; my soul longs for you as a parched land." Psalm 143:6**

Most of the time we stuff our longing. It's too painful to bring it out in the open because we're afraid we will be disappointed. When you feel a stirring for more or an awakening to the things of God, pay attention. It's the Holy Spirit's invitation for you to draw close.

**You recognize God's voice: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27 NLT**

Sometimes we get this so wrong as we come to God with our laundry list of needs, we leave no room for Him to speak. It's in the closeness we open up our hearts to hearing what God wants for us. He longs to show us His plans and purpose and speak His love over us if we would just be still and listen.

**You aren't afraid to risk vulnerability with God: "Behold you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart." Psalm 51:6 ESV**

God already knows all your thoughts, hopes, dreams, fear, disappointments, and pain, yet He still longs to be with you. He doesn't hold your truth against you and as you risk vulnerability and bring your honest self before Him. You'll be met with unending love. The more open you are, the closer you'll feel.

**You have a teachable spirit: "Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you." Psalm 86:11 NLT**

Sometimes the greatest deterrent to closeness is our pride. We know the Bible stories, we think we know it all. But greater intimacy will result when we realize we have so much more to learn about God, our sinful nature, and how we treat others. God can only mold us and change us from a place of intimacy.

**You hunger for the Word of God: "Teach me your decrees, O Lord; I will keep them to the end." Psalm 119:33 NLT**

God left the inspired Word for us to see His heart. The Word is living and active, and you will only grow close to God as your desire to read the Word grows. There is a holy connection that takes place as we read. Our minds and hearts are transformed as we soak in the truth of who God is.

