

## Likeness and Nearness Part 2

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### I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 17, I Kings 8.

B. God is omnipresent (He is everywhere), and He is imminent (He penetrates everything).

C. Those that are morally dissimilar to God are destined for hell; those morally similar to God are destined for heaven.

D. Atonement (the objective work of Christ on the cross), justification (the objective work that declares a sinner righteous judicially) and regeneration (the subjective work that changes a man from within by offering the divine nature) are the acts of God for man.

### II. Regeneration restores a deal of compatibility with God making communion with God possible.

A. God cannot commune with a sinner because there is a violent unlikeness.

B. The believer has put on the new man—the regenerated man—that allows for communion with God without incongruity. (Colossians 3)

### III. The distance a Christian feels from God.

A. Most Christians suffer from this.

B. There is no remote place in God

1. We feel the distance because there is still dissimilarity in our natures.

2. We have some sense of communion because of His nature within, but we still have an old nature.

C. What we are praying for is the manifestation of God's presence.

D. God is made near to us through Jesus who is...

1. Holy.

2. Unselfish.

3. Kind.

4. Humble.

E. Regeneration does not perfect the image of God in a person—it must continue to grow and come out.

F. We do have enough divine nature for the perfection of fellowship even if we may not always feel God's presence.

**Application questions:**

1. Why do Christians often struggle to feel God's presence when God is everywhere?

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2. Why is it important to understand Jesus' character in order to feel closer to God?

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3. How would you counsel someone feeling distant from God? Explain.

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