



To Draw Closer To God: A Collection Of Discourses

Henry B. Eyring

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The Lord said to Joseph Smith, "Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you." (D&C 88:63.) In *To Draw Closer to God*, Elder Henry B. Eyring explains some of the ways we can claim these promises. In his thoughtful, spiritual style, he discusses such topics as learning to hear the Lord's voice, choosing to be good, overcoming trials of faith, strengthening the family, surrendering to Christ, and helping others draw closer to the Lord.

Elder Eyring writes, "Yield your heart unto God. Ask him what it is he would have you do. Know that he will have prepared a way for you to do it, even under great difficulties. Ask him how he would have you share what you have with others, and you will feel his love. He lives and he loves you. He wants you to come home again."

If you would like to have the Spirit of the Lord with you more often, if you would like to feel closer to your Father in Heaven and have him be closer to you, you'll appreciate the insights and messages in this collection of inspiring discourses

To Draw Closer To God: A Collection Of Discourses Details

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Magila says

When you hear book of discourses, and in the Latter-day Saint world, this means talks, it can be at once promising and a bit underwhelming. The key to achieving something meaningful becomes successful curation, editing, and a flow that makes sense.

This book of discourses tackled a wide range of topics and in the end, it did make me feel like I was able to draw closer to God -and in many respects- God by virtue of the Holy Ghost.

A major virtue, though I did listen to it (which I recommend) in rather rapid succession, is that you can step in and out of this. Going from one section to another, it's something you can consider over some time and include as a part of personal study and reflection without feeling a need or desire to rush through it.

Highly recommended.

Duane Lemmon says

I read this on a trip with my young daughters while on a trip visiting family. This book was very inspiring and was much needed after what has been the roughest year of my life so far; with a pending divorce from a person that was, not only my high school sweetheart but a person that for over half my life has been my best friend and then more recently the passing of my only sibling. I found much needed guidance, reminders, comfort and enlightenment. President Eyring's discourses are put together in a well thought out order.

Natalie says

This is another book that was life-changing for me – beginning with this statement:

“You have moments when you want to be better than you have ever been. President McKay says the urge to rise above ourselves is because we are spiritual beings . . . It is far beyond a desire for ‘self-improvement.’ It is an urge to live so far above self that you could never do it on your own. Moroni said we must ‘come unto Christ . . . then is his grace sufficient for you,’ and he outlines what we must do to receive that grace.”
(Moroni 10:32-33)

“That urge to rise above yourself is a recognition of your need for the Atonement to work in your life and your need to be sure that it is working.”

Teaching from the scriptures, Elder Eyring outlines principles for learning to hear the Lord's voice, recognizing how to apply the atonement in our lives, coming through the trials of life, waiting on the Lord and calling down the blessings of heaven.

Especially enlightening to me were his insights into how to rekindle the spark of faith in those who have lost their way, helping someone in their moment of doubt, and leaving our families a legacy of testimony that might reach through the generations.

I found myself taking lengthy notes in order to understand and internalize these principles. And I loved how the progression of his teaching led from purifying and preparing the self to reaching out in Christ-like love to others, with the promise of great joy in that service: “You can trust that the Savior will qualify you as His servant, to assist Him in touching lives with faith to bring to pass the eternal life of man. And you will find satisfaction in that service beyond your fondest dreams.”

I think someone who is truly interested in serving the Lord by helping his children will find *great* satisfaction in this book.

Loralee says

My mother gave this book to each of her children a few Christmas's ago. I found great insights into developing my own relationship with God. This is one of those books where you can read a chapter and find yourself thinking about it for the rest of the day.

His book is filled with great wisdom. Speaking about trying to be like our Savior, Pres. Eyring says, "If we stay at it long enough, perhaps for a lifetime, we will have for so long felt what the Savior feels, wanted what he wants, and done what he would have us do that we will have, through the Atonement, a new heart filled with charity. And we will have become more like him." (p. 71)

This is a book I have read more than once. I have also found it a great source for talks and lessons.

Lisa Brown says

A wonderful book that not only helps you understand your relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ, but helps you understand how to come closer to Him and our Father in Heaven. Elder Eyring has such a wonderful way of teaching, and his words, personal stories, and testimony truly do help you draw closer to God.

*I read this during a particularly trying time in my life, and it was just what I needed.

Jess Wilson says

Wonderful book. There were many times while reading his words, I was reminded that a. that he is a prophet of God b. some perfectly "random" sentence and/or chapter is exactly what I needed that moment of that day to: lift my spirit, called me to change, or answered an unsaid prayer.

Heidi says

Listened to him read this. I love his voice. So many good messages in here - especially for this time in my life.

Susan Howe says

I loved this book and will “read it” listen to it again. I love the personal experiences Elder Eyring shares and the way he reaches.

Katie says

I really enjoyed this. President Eyring is a great man and I love his stories and wisdom. I thought it would just be about helping myself draw closer to God, but there's a section at the end about helping others draw closer to God. I enjoyed that the most.

Cindy says

Sometimes a book comes into your life at just the right time. With all the stuff going on in my family right now, this book was just what I needed to read. I love President Eyring and his calm, sweet faith that just permeates everything he says and does. In this book, I found just what I needed to help me deal with some personal heartaches. It gave the strength and the understanding to keep going just a little longer, and with God's grace, that's when things began to look a little less grim. It wasn't so much the words themselves, as the spirit that filled me as I read them. It was a very personal experience, but I am sharing it here because I am so grateful that it happened. Much of my reading is just for fun, or for a little enlightenment, but sometimes I need to read something that feeds my soul. This was just what I needed.

Kendel Christensen says

This book has a special spirit about it. I will let it do the talking:

“I hope a day doesn't begin or end that you don't consider whether something you did might have offended the Holy Ghost or made it harder for the Spirit to influence you. That is what it means to me to have a repentant heart.”

(Henry B. Eyring, To Draw Closer to God, Deseret Book [Salt Lake City: 1997], p.17-18)

“I hope you feel happiness. I do. That is an indication that we are on the right course. I can promise you that you can not only feel that now, but you can look forward to it over a lifetime, even a lifetime that may have its trials and its great difficulties.”

(Henry B. Eyring, To Draw Closer to God, Deseret Book [Salt Lake City: 1997], p.22)

“You will never know enough in this life. Part of enduring to the end is to never get over being teachable, even after you have lived and learned a lot.” [ONE OF MY PERSONAL MAXIMS!!]

(Henry B. Eyring, To Draw Closer to God, Deseret Book [Salt Lake City: 1997], p.35)

ALL of chapter 4, "Come Unto Christ" and 5 "Choose to be Good" will CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

"You can make the choice to be good early. You can use the Savior as your standard for goodness. And you can stay with it. President Benson gave us that assurance, and I testify that it is true. He said: "Attaining a righteous and virtuous life is within the capability of any one of us if we will earnestly seek for it. If we do not have these character traits, the Lord has told us that we should 'ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.' (D&C 4:7.) The Apostle Peter tells us that when we possess these traits we are not 'unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.' (2 Peter 1:8; emphasis added.) To know the Savior, then, is to be like Him. God will bless us to be like His Son when we make an earnest effort." ("What Manner of Men Ought We to Be?" Ensign, November 1983, p. 43.)"

(Henry B. Eyring, *To Draw Closer to God*, Deseret Book [Salt Lake City: 1997], p.71-72)

"If you'll remember that the key to not being diverted from serving God is humility, then you'll understand that some of those days when you thought things were going badly were a great blessing. You might not have sought them, but if you react to such days by recognizing your dependence on God, you could actually be in a better situation than if everything had gone extremely well. Too much success, in fact, could lead you into a more difficult trial because it could make you arrogant.

To hear the voice of the Holy Ghost requires a humble and a meek heart. Although it may sometimes feel like chastisement when life gets difficult, remember that the scriptures tell us, "Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you whom I love, and whom I love I also chasten that their sins may be forgiven, for with the chastisement I prepare a way for their deliverance in all things out of temptation, and I have loved you—wherefore, ye must needs be chastened and stand rebuked before my face." (D&C 95:1-2.) That doesn't sound so strange after you've thought about it. Our Father in Heaven loves us; he wants us to be guided, and he knows we can't be guided in arrogance. So when you're enduring what seems to be a trial or a test, when things don't seem to be going well, you can know that you have a loving Father who is allowing you to have experiences that can bless you."

(Henry B. Eyring, *To Draw Closer to God*, Deseret Book [Salt Lake City: 1997], p.85-86)

"When you're experiencing a severe trial, ask yourself this question: "Am I trying to do what the Lord would have me do?" If you're not, then adjust your course. But if you are, remember the boy outside the walls of Jerusalem who turned to his brothers and said, "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." (1 Nephi 3:7.)

I bear you my testimony that the Lord will always prepare a way for you to escape from the trials you will be given if you understand two things. One is that you need to be on the Lord's errand. The second thing you need to understand is that the escape will almost never be out of the trial; it will usually be through it. If you pray to have the experience removed altogether, you may not find the way prepared for you. Instead, you need to pray to find the way of deliverance through it."

(Henry B. Eyring, *To Draw Closer to God*, Deseret Book [Salt Lake City: 1997], p.86)

"The book of Helaman describes a group of people who were suffering terrible persecution but were at peace in their hearts. This is how they did it: "They did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God." (Helaman 3:35.)

Yield your heart unto God. Ask him what it is he would have you do. Know that he will have prepared a way

for you to do it, even under great difficulties. Ask him how he would have you share what you have with others, and you will feel his love. He lives and he loves you. He wants you to come home again.”
(Henry B. Eyring, To Draw Closer to God, Deseret Book [Salt Lake City: 1997], p.88-89)

Connie says

I would catch snippets of the audio on The Mormon Channel radio and was so excited to finally listen to the whole thing. Such a great listen and definitely made me feel closer to God especially as I was listening while staying at the beach and would listen on my morning walks by the ocean and watching the sunrises.

Amy says

I've discovered a common theme in President Eyring's discourses and talks: Ask God what you should do, how you should serve, how you should feel, then listen and obey. He will answer.

Michelle Llewellyn says

This book is made up of fifteen discourses and talks given by Elder Eyring from as early as 1985 to 1995 that will inspire and strengthen your testimony of the gospel.

My favorite discourse was chapter 13 entitled "The Family," (1995) in which Elder Eyring, using the (then brand new) The Family: A Proclamation to the World as his text, exhorts us in creating the ideal family unit of eternal families that would become so important decades later.

Before meeting his wife and settling down to marriage, Elder Eyring describes the comfortable life he was living in a boardinghouse with other single men like himself. All enjoyed good meals, housekeeping service and comfortable rented rooms to relax in, yet, it was not the ideal life he'd been taught to strive for. A nice lifestyle but not one he'd want to live in forever.

Yet, how many young men today have no problem with putting off marriage and family creation? This particular quote really struck home to me:

"For some of us, the test in that schoolroom of mortality will be to want marriage and children in this life, with all our hearts, but to have it delayed or denied." (p. 165)

I found much comfort knowing if I put my faith and trust in the Lord and work harder in establishing and maintaining a relationship with Him while staying close to the spirit and keeping the commandments and my covenants everything else would take care of itself. "And how great shall be the joy and how much deeper the appreciation after enduring in patience and faith now."

Galene says

I really enjoyed this book. It is filled with simple things that we can do to Draw Closer to God. I finished it just after I listened to Conference and it was nice to feel the same sweet spirit. I am Grateful I Read this book and hope to apply its teachings. I would definitely recommend reading it.
