



## [Hebrews 11:6](#)

(6) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

*New International Version*

Notice that [Hebrews 11:6](#) reads, "he who comes to [God](#)," and [1 Peter 2:3-4](#) uses a similar phrase. "Coming to God" means that one approaches nearer to God, seeks Him, or he walks with Him. It signifies [fellowship](#) with Him.

The Bible shows three stages of coming to God. The first is at God's calling when one begins to draw near. It results in justification and the imputing of Christ's righteousness. The second is more continuous, occurring during sanctification, as a person seeks to be like God, conform to His image, and have His laws written, engraved, into his character. The third stage occurs at the resurrection when the individual is glorified.

[John 6:44](#) clarifies our first coming to God: "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day." Nobody comes to God, no one seeks the God of the Bible, until he becomes aware of his need of Him. Nobody comes to God until he realizes he is far from Him and out of His favor—in fact, he is under God's condemnation and separated from the quality of life called in the Bible "[eternal life](#)." God reveals a measure of these things through His calling.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son illustrates this ([Luke 15:14-19](#)). The son did not return or draw near to his father until he was aware of his need. This sense of need motivates us to [seek God](#) and draw near to Him. This sense of need is a gift of God's [grace](#) working on a person's mind and is initially given when God summons the individual to approach Him.

[Ephesians 4:17-24](#) covers the second "coming to God":

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk

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as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness on their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ. If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the [truth](#) is in [Jesus](#): that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Verse 30 adds an instructive, albeit sobering, thought: "And do not grieve the [Holy Spirit](#) of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." The Holy Spirit mentioned here is God Himself, who is hurt, sorrowed, by our sinful neglect of His gift. Once He bestows this sense of need, it is a continuous impulse unless we stifle it by neglecting to follow through, as those in the [book of Hebrews](#) were doing.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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