

TODAY'S MESSAGE

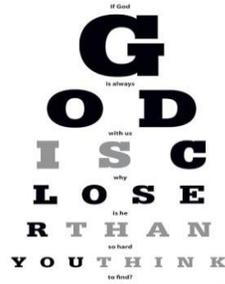
PART 1

"God's Great Desire for People"

Joshua 1:9

March 27, 2016 – EASTER!

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. (Jos. 1:9)



HOW C_____ IS GOD?

- Is God a Little Blurry? Need a telescope to see Him?

GOD'S D_____ IS TO BE WITH ME.

- He wanted to be with Adam and David (and others)

"my faithful love will be with him" (Psalm 89:24a)

- He wants to be with ME as a loving father

The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The LORD is near to all who call on him (Psalm 145:17-18)

GOD'S P_____ IS TO BE WITH ME.

"The central promise in the Bible is not 'I will forgive you,' The most frequent promise in the Bible is 'I will be *with* you.'" - John Ortberg

- God promises to be with **Isaac** (Gen. 26:1-6), **Joshua**, (Jos. 1:5,9), **Paul** (Acts 18:5-11), **Moses** (Ex. 33:15-16)
- God revealed Himself (2 Ki. 6:8-18), Luke 24:13-35)
- Jesus = Immanuel, "God With Us"

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

MY TURN: DRAW N_____ TO GOD.

- **Assurance** (Joshua 1:9)
- **Guidance** (Isaiah 42:16)
- **Hope** (Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 28:20, Revelation 21:3)
- **Spiritual Growth** (increased capacity to walk with God)

For Reflection / Action: How close is God to me? How do I know? How close am I to God? In what ways can I recognize God's presence? How can I grow spiritually? (Use the guide on the reverse for help.)

Outline based on *God is Closer Than You Think Participant's Guide*, c2005. John Ortberg. (Zondervan and Willow Creek Resources)

It is possible for each of us to learn how to recognize and experience God's presence—right now, every moment, wherever we are. There's no better time than right now to begin living with an awareness of God's presence in your life. Set aside time during the next few days to read each of the following guiding principles for practicing God's presence every day. Think about them, pray about them, and ask God to open your heart and mind to his presence.

- God is *always* present and active in my life, whether or not I see him.
- Coming to recognize and experience God's presence is *learned* behavior; I can cultivate it.
- My task is to meet God in *this* moment.
- I am always tempted to live "outside" this moment. When I do that, I lose my sense of God's presence.
- Sometimes God seems far away for reasons I do not understand. Those moments, too, are opportunities to learn.
- Whenever I fail, I can always start again right away.
- No one knows the full extent to which a human being can experience God's presence.
- My desire for God ebbs and flows, but his desire for me is constant.
- Every thought carries a "spiritual charge" that moves me a little closer to or a little farther from God.
- Every aspect of my life—work, relationships, hobbies, errands— is of immense and genuine interest to God.
- My path to experiencing God's presence will not look quite like anyone else's.
- Straining and trying too hard do not help.

GOD IS
CLOSER
THAN YOU
THINK



THINK

*God's
Great
Desire
for
People*

Pastor Augie Iadicicco

God's Great Desire For People

- How CLOSE is God?



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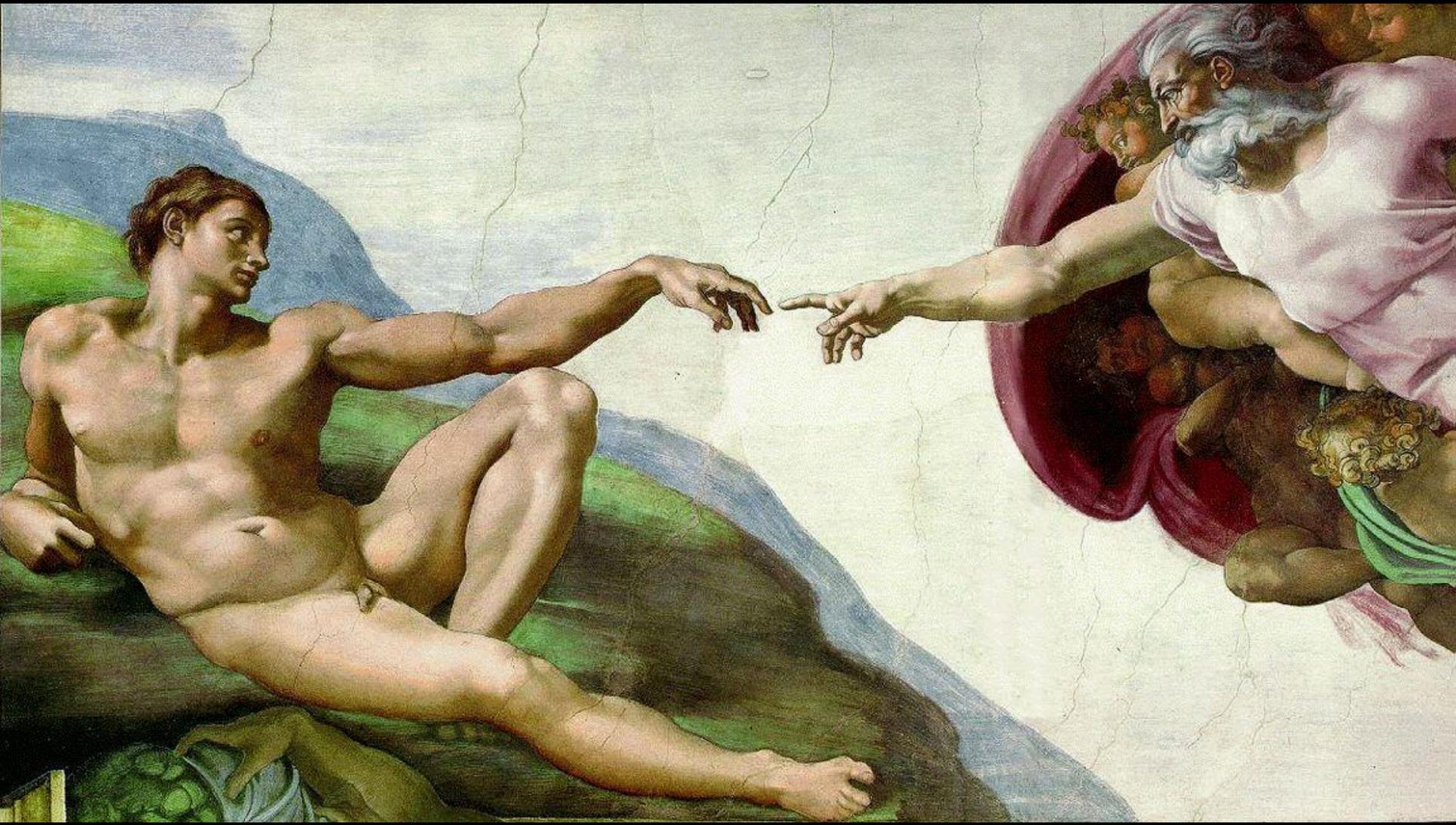
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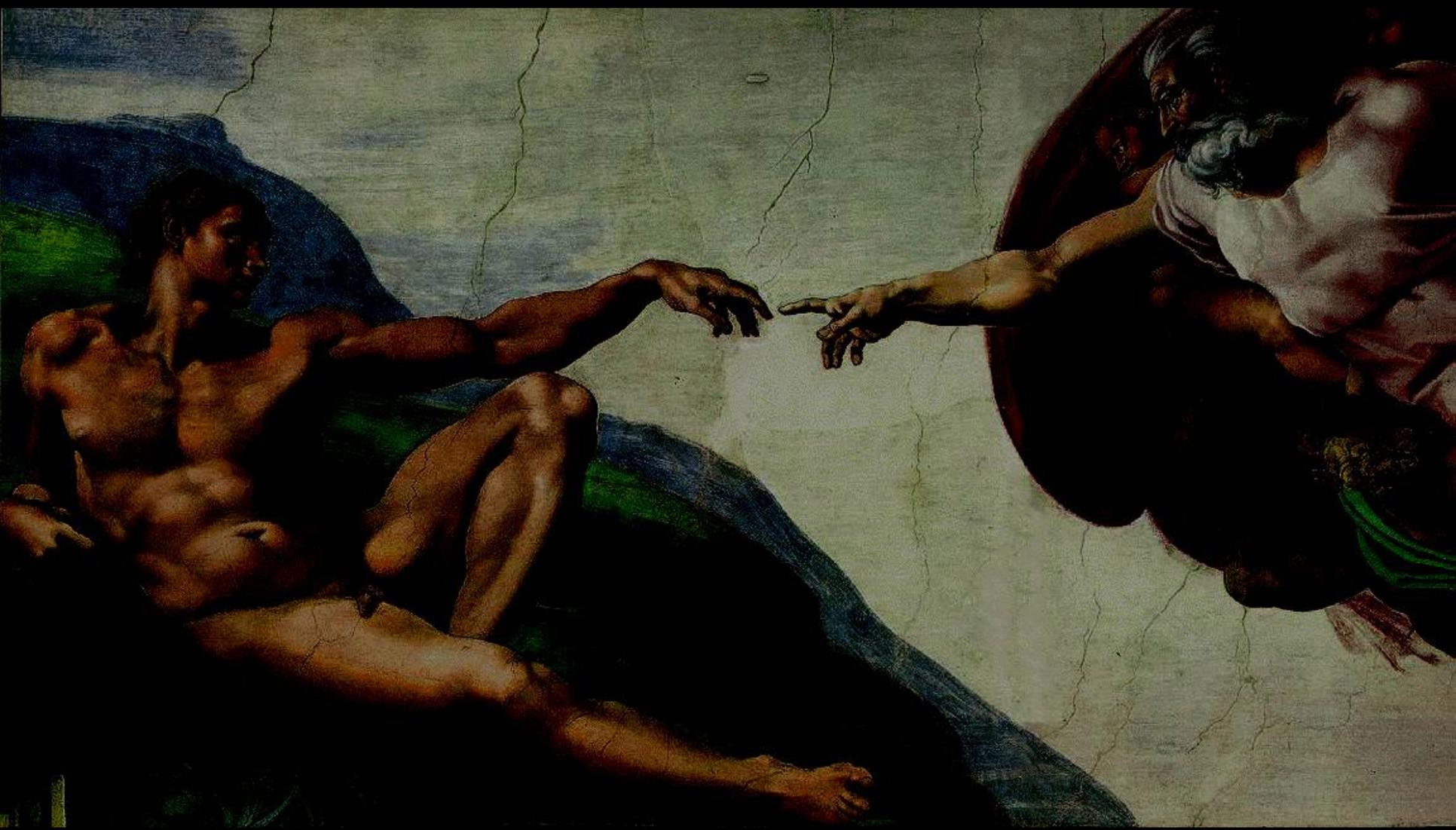
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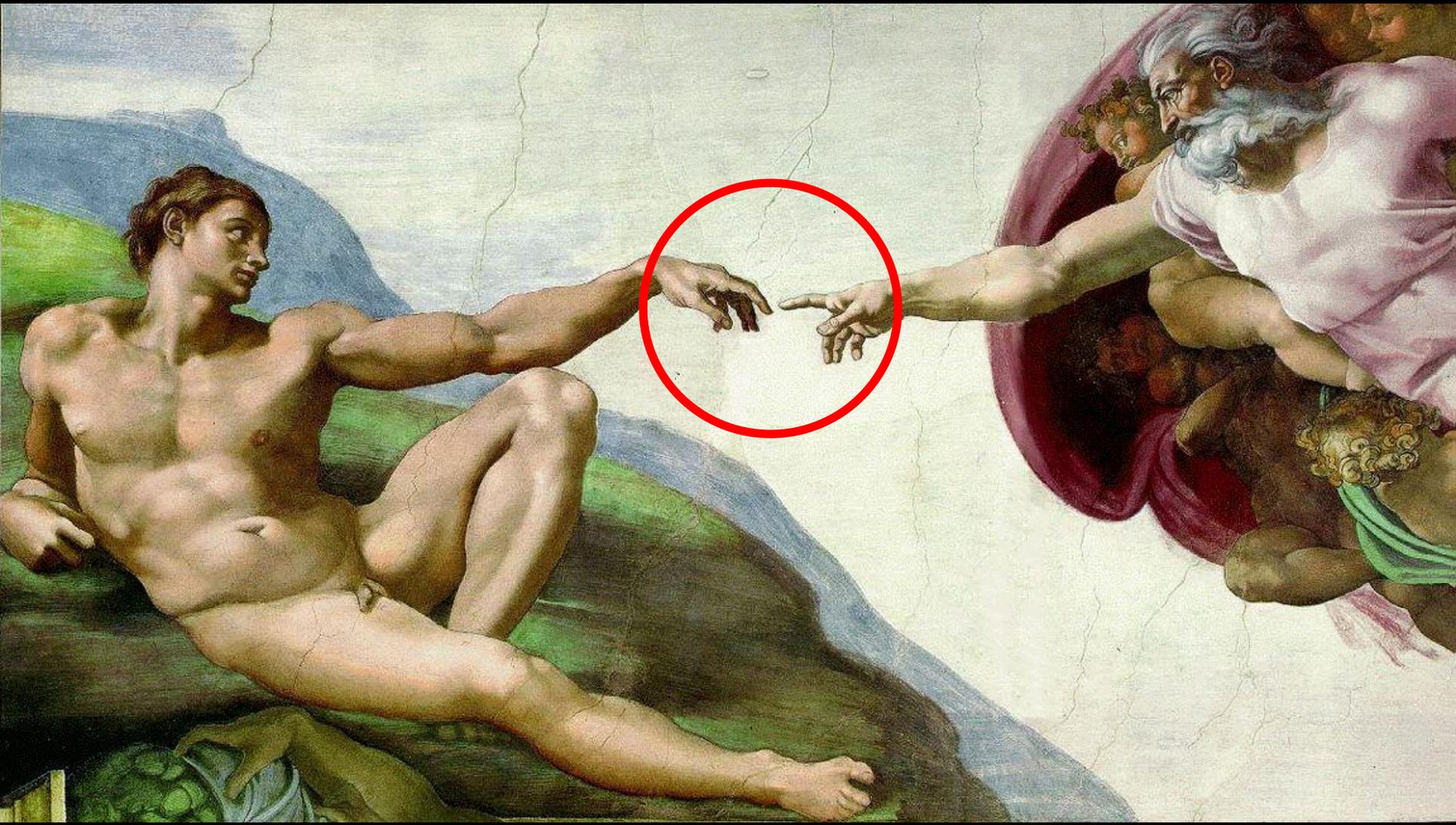
to find?

God's Great Desire For People

- How CLOSE is God?
- God's DESIRE is to be with you.







*"My hand will sustain him;
surely my arm will strengthen him.
No enemy will subject him to tribute;
no wicked man will oppress him.
I will crush his foes before him
and strike down his adversaries.
My faithful love will be with him..."*

(Psalm 89:21-24)

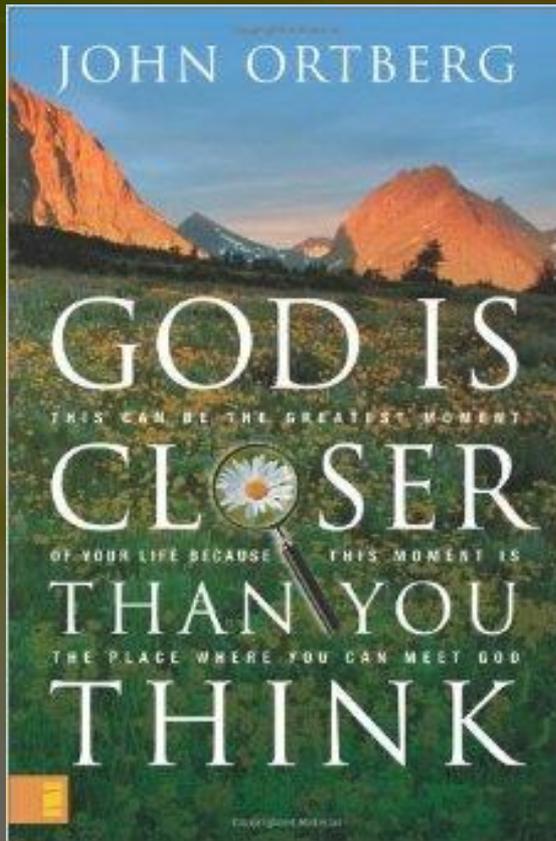


Like A Loving Father ...

"The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."

(Psalm 145:17-18)

God's PROMISE is to be with you.



“The central promise in the Bible is not ‘I will forgive you,’ The most frequent promise in the Bible is ‘I will be with you.’”

God's Promise ...

Isaac:

*“Stay in this land for a while,
and I will be with you and will
bless you.”*

God's Promise ...

Joshua:

“As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.”



Paul:

"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you"

God's Promise ...

Moses:

*“If your Presence does not
go with us, do not send
us up from here.*”

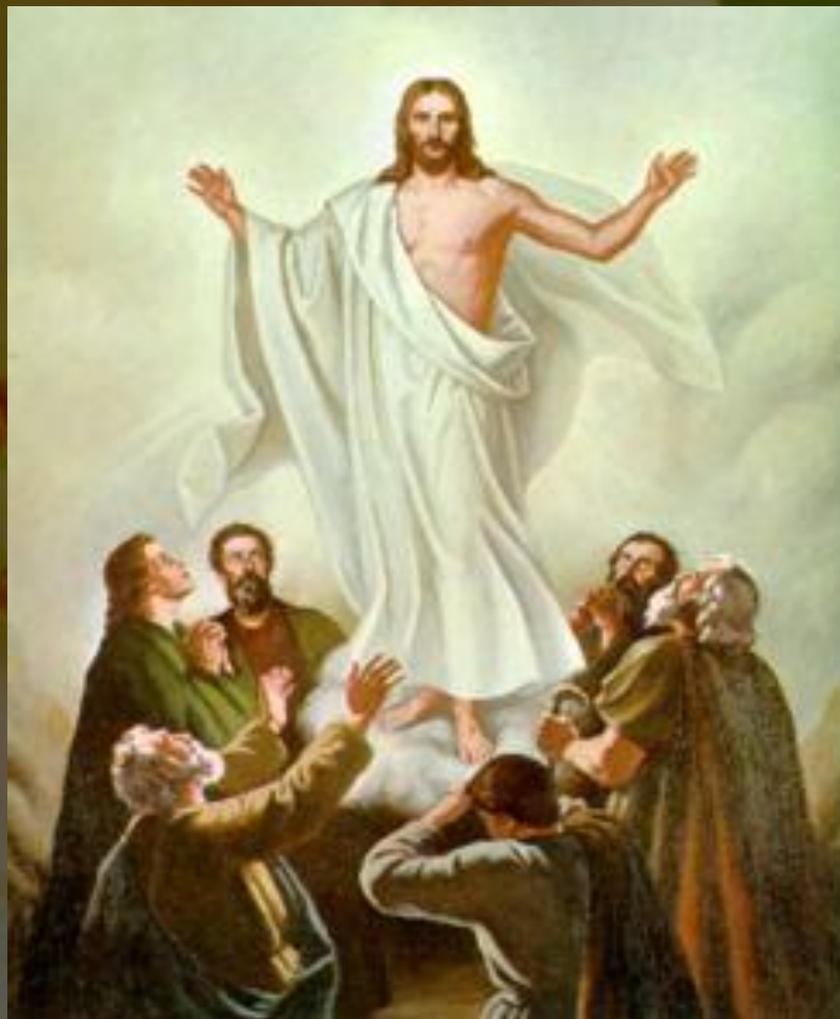


“Immanuel” – ‘God With Us’

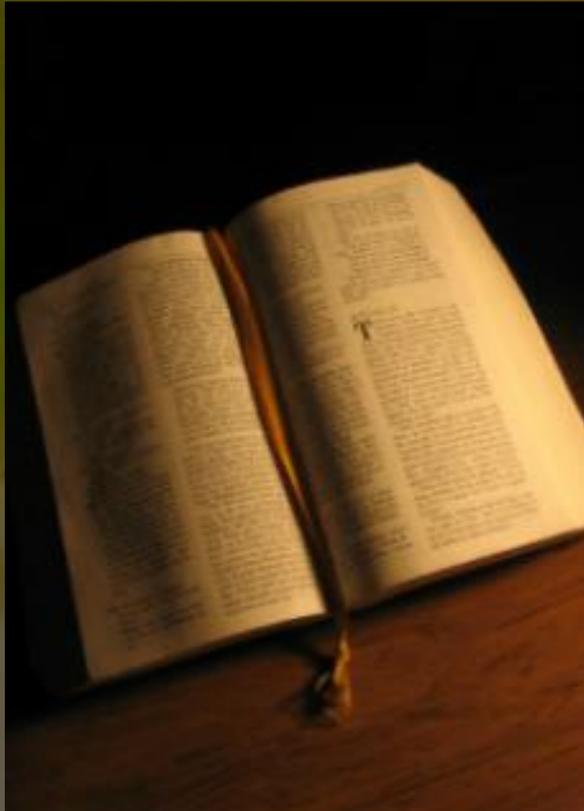




Jesus: “I am WITH YOU...”



Draw NEAR To God.



Draw NEAR To God.

- Assurance
- Guidance
- Hope
- Spiritual Growth

Draw NEAR To God.

*“Draw near to God, and he will
draw near to you.” – James 4:8*

On Your CONNECTION CARD:

- A – Already / Secure
- B – Beginning / More
- C – Considering / Seeking
- D – Don't Bother with God
 - “LINKS”

