

Good morning! When you think about God, do you think of Him as close at hand or far away? We recently celebrated Father's Day. Much of the way we think about God is strongly influenced by our relationship with our earthly fathers. If your relationship with your dad was good, you may think of God as available, responsive, and loving. If your relationship with your dad was painful, you may think of Him as difficult, demanding, or capricious. Either way, you may not think of God as being very available to you. In spite of the fact that the Bible tells us so much about God, people---Christians included--- often pay little attention to it as a source of information about who God is. This morning, let's look together at what God has chosen to reveal about Himself to us through the Bible:

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

Psalm 145:18–20

Let's read that first sentence together again: "*The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*" I like that. I recently heard it expressed this way: "The Lord is as near to you as a prayer." You may feel that God is far away, but according to the Bible, all you really have to do is to call on Him. When you to begin to pray, that distance vanishes. God doesn't say He will be near to you when you call on Him---He says He *is* near you when you call on Him. When you begin to pray, you immediately come into contact with God. As I go through my day, when I think of something that is a concern to me, I can stop and pray and immediately be in contact with my Heavenly Father. He is near to all who call upon Him. The psalmist tells us that He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him. And if you and I have a reverence for God, then He will fulfill the desires we bring to Him. The psalmist says, He hears my cry and saves me. He watches over me; and not just me but all who love Him. Are you feeling distant from God this morning? Let me encourage you that God is as close to you as your whispered prayer. Try calling upon Him this morning--- right now--- and see what He will do for you. "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him." *All who call upon Him...* There are no exceptions!