

Halts by me that footfall:
Is my gloom, after all,
Shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly?
"Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest,
I am He whom thou seekest!
Thou dravest love from thee, who dravest Me."

- (4) However, a fourth implication of God's omnipresence is that an objective acknowledgement of the truth of His omnipresence is not the same as a subjective realization and appropriation of the reality of His omnipresent presence, especially in favor and fellowship and blessing.

In the Scriptures the idea of the nearness of God is used a number of times.

In Psalm 34:18 we read that "the lord is near to the brokenhearted."

In Psalm 145:18 we learn that "the lord is near to all who call upon Him."

In Isaiah 55:6 we read: "Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near."

In Hebrews 7:25 the writer says that "He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

And in James 4:8 we read, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

Now although "near" is a spatial term, these references have nothing whatsoever to do with the lord being or drawing near in space. The nearness spoken of in these places is not proximity in space, but proximity in relationship. Drawing near to God means getting closer to Him in humility and in dependence, in love and in trust, in personal knowledge and in communion.

Two human beings can live in close proximity in the same house, and yet be virtual strangers as far as shared interests, sympathy, and love are concerned. They can grow more "distant" day by day until they find they share nothing. And yet they can be in and move in the same space.

Our drawing near to God and God's drawing near to us has nothing to do with space. It has to do with relationship. And yet the objective reality of His omnipresence makes the subjective realization and appropriation of His presence a genuine possibility. We can draw near to Him in love because He is near in space. He is so very close to us that we live and move and exist in Him. And He invites us to be with Him now, even as we will be with Him forever. -

-