

How can I get closer to Jesus?

Can I get closer to Jesus through prayers (to Him), faith (in Him), grace (from Him), forgiveness (by Him), adoration (of Him), studying Scripture (about Him), caring (for Him) or just loving Him? What would get me close to Jesus most often and most quickly? What does Jesus tell us is the answer to these questions? Perhaps Jesus' most pertinent answer is in the Gospel of John 14:23: **"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."** If God the Father and Jesus abide in you, that sounds pretty intimate and close. And, it sounds pretty simple – "keep my word." But Jesus has many words for us to keep. Let's look at some of the words he wants us to keep.

Does Jesus say if we pray to him that we can get closer to him? In John , He says, **"...whatever you ask in my name, I will do..."** Pray to Him. Does Jesus say if we have faith in Him we can get closer to Him? In Luke, Jesus says **"Your faith has saved you; go in peace."** Have faith in Him.

Jesus never mentions the word grace during his ministry on Earth. However, his parable on the workers in the vineyard (Mat 20:1-16) shows us that it is not how long we are in Jesus' vineyard that brings us the grace of salvation; it is the fact that we are there to receive His grace that counts. Seek His grace.

In Matthew 18:22, Jesus tells us to forgive our brother not seven times but seventy times seven times. Forgive so He will forgive you.

Should we adore Jesus? In John 17:1, He says **"Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him."** Honor Him during Eucharistic Adoration.

In Matthew 25:45, Jesus tells us to care for the least of our brothers and sisters and thus we are caring for Him. Care for Him.

In John 5:39-40, Jesus says “You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf. But you do not want to come to me to have life.” Read Holy Scripture to know Him.

In John 15:7, Jesus tells us “if you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.” Jesus further states (John 15:10), “If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.” And in Matthew 22:37-39 he specifically identifies the greatest commandment - “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

In all the above we are to get closer to Jesus by finding him in ourselves and others. Remember to find Jesus in the people closest to us and you will be close to Him!

References from New American Bible