

## Be Open with God

*I have loved you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3, NIV)*

When something happens to seriously shake my wife's confidence, she immediately withdraws emotionally, hiding her feelings behind a wall of silence and shallow smiles. She is overwhelmed with fears about herself, so she instinctively protects herself from further pain. For a while, she will not share herself with me.

Those brief periods are among the most painful in my life. I am cut off emotionally from the one I love. I feel powerless to help her when she needs me the most. Praying for the Lord's guidance, I work on communicating with her until she begins to open up. When she does, there is at first an outpouring of pain, frustration, and anger. But I welcome it because it is honest, and because it paves the way to closeness.

Her withdrawals stem from fear. Mine stem from preoccupation. My mind fills with my own thoughts and projects, and without even realizing it, I distance myself from her. She senses my withdrawal and waits patiently – or not so patiently – to regain my attention. She wants that connection. She wants to know that the eyes of my heart are fixed on her, that I am sharing myself with her and that I am open to her sharing.

If we crave such openness with those we love, how do you think God feels toward us? He doesn't operate out of emotional need, but out of real, deep, burning love. How must He feel when He sees us struggle with concerns and needs we have never shared with Him? How must He feel when we so seldom look to Him or turn our hearts toward Him?

He died willingly, gladly, to take away our sins. His forgiveness is total, immediate, and from the bottom of His heart, without any recrimination whatsoever. How then must He feel when we hesitate to simply come to Him and lay our sins and failures before Him?

Does God desire anything more than constant closeness with us? He has eliminated all the barriers of time and distance: He is personally with us moment by moment. We were unworthy, but He has made us worthy, welcoming us warmly, with open arms.

You live every second of your life in His presence. Share yourself with Him. Treat Him like someone with whom you are deeply in love. Turn to Him immediately with every concern, every need, every joy. Nothing in life – nothing – matches the excitement of experiencing God responding to you and loving you and growing inside you.

**Hymn: [Holy Father, Only You](#)**