

**THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE**  
*Or, The Forty Weeks of Purpose*  
A Sermon Series Based on the Book by Rick Warren  
Message Fifteen (Week Fourteen): When God Seems Distant  
Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, AM, August 1, 2004

**INTRODUCTION:**

What makes feel that God is distant?

Key Text: Isa. 8:17:

Rick Warren: “The most common mistake Christians make in worship is seeking an *experience* rather than seeking God.” (page 109)

**PROPOSITION:** There are four things you need to do when God *seems* distant.

**I. COMMUNICATE YOUR INTIMATE FEELINGS TO GOD. Job 7:11.**

- A. Admitting Your Hopelessness Can Be Handled by God.
- B. Admitting Your Hopelessness Can Be Healthy and Good. Ps. 116:10.

**II. CONCENTRATE ON THE IMMUTABLE FACTS ABOUT GOD.**

- A. God is Compassionate. Job 10:12.
- B. God is Compelling. Job 42:2; 37:5, 23.
- C. God is Conscientious. Job 23:10; 31:4.
- D. God is in Control. Job 34:13.
- E. God has a Course. Job 23:14.
- F. God Will Complete Me. Job 19:25.

**III. HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE INTRINSIC FAITHFULNESS OF GOD. Job 23:12.**

- A. Don't Be Depending on Your Sentiments and Feelings on the Inside.
- B. Don't Be Discouraged by Struggles and Failures on the Outside.

***IV. CONSIDER THE INVARIABLE FAVORS OF GOD.***

- A. Jesus Gave Up Everything.
- B. Jesus Gives Us Everything. 2 Cor. 5:21.

***APPLICATION:***

**Point to Ponder:** God is real, no matter how I feel.

**Question to Consider:** How can I stay focused on God's presence, especially when He feels distant?