



A background graphic of a ruler with large, bold letters and distance markings. The letters are arranged in a diagonal pattern from top-left to bottom-right. The letters include 'O', 'D', 'S', 'C', 'E', 'H', 'I', 'N', 'T', 'H', 'I', 'N', 'T', 'H', 'I', 'N', 'T', 'H', 'I', 'N'. The distance markings are in feet and meters: '100 ft. or 30.5 m', '50 ft. or 15.24 m', '40 ft. or 12.19 m', '30 ft. or 9.14 m', '20 ft. or 6.10 m', '15 ft. or 4.75 m'.

God Is Closer Than You Think The People

“How do you know if you are seeing God’s presence in and through the people around you?”

Colossians 4:7-18

“Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the LORD. I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

Colossians 4:7-18

My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)

Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.

Colossians 4:7-18

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

Colossians 4:7-18

After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

Tell Archippus: ‘See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.’

I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.”

Indicator #1:

If you can describe how a person's character traits reflect God, you might be seeing God through the people around you.

Ephesians 6:21

“Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the LORD, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing.”

Indicator #2:

If you see people not for their earthly status but for their stature in Christ, you might be seeing God through the people around you.

Colossians 4:9

"...our faithful and dear brother who is one of you."

Philemon 8-10

“Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.”

Philemon 12-21

“I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother.

Philemon 12-21

He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the LORD. So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self.

Philemon 12-21

I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the LORD; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.”

Indicator #3:

If you observe Christ-followers who stick close to those who are in trouble, you might be seeing God through the people around you.

Indicator #4:

If you see someone who has failed and is being restored, you might be seeing God through the people around you.

2 Timothy 4:11

“Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.”

Indicator #5:

If you see people who are bringing comfort to those who are hurting, you might be seeing God through the people around you.

Indicator #6:

If you pray bold prayers on behalf of the Christians you know, you might be seeing God through the people around you.

Colossians 4:12

“Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”

Indicator #7:

When you observe people who are willing to sacrifice for cause of Christ, you might be seeing God through the people around you.

Indicator #8:

If you observe someone whose first love is Jesus, you might be seeing God through the people around you.

Colossians 4:14

“Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.”

2 Timothy 4:10

"For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica."

Colossians 4:15

“Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.”

Indicator #9:

If you see men and women serving indiscriminately in church, you might be seeing God through the people around you.

Colossians 4:17

“Tell Archippus: ‘See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.’”

Indicator #10:

If you see Christians who are faithful to finish what they begin, you might be seeing God through the people around you.

Philippians 1:6

“...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”