



During the coronavirus pandemic, social distancing is repeatedly mandated: “Keep your distance....Stay six feet away from the next person in line....When gathering together, do not get near each other,” etc.

In the spiritual realm, distance between ourselves and the Lord puts us in great peril. We well remember the time when we were far from God and dead in sin, separated from His holy Person: “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you” (*Isa. 59:2*). Sadly, those who continue in their sins and refuse to obey the gospel will be banished “from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power” (*2 Thess. 1:9*).

With great gratitude we remember that we, who were once far off were brought nigh by the blood of Christ and granted access by one Spirit unto the Father (*Eph. 2:13-18*). Having been brought into God’s family by grace, it is our duty to make sure that our relationship with the Lord is characterized **by closeness and not distance**. “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” (*Heb. 10:22*). “Let us therefore come [draw near] boldly unto the throne of grace” (*Heb. 4:16*).

As believers, our hearts are prone to wander and distance ourselves from the God we love. The Psalmist bares his heart over the agony of **spiritual** distancing: “Why standest Thou afar off, O LORD? Why hidest Thou Thyself in times of trouble?” (*Psalms 10:1*). “Why art Thou so far from helping me?” (*Psalms 22:1*). Yet God is right there—ready, willing and able to be a very present help in trouble (*Psalms 46:1*). By way of repentance and confession every believer may “draw nigh to God,” having the sure promise that “He will draw nigh to you” (*James 4:8*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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