

IS GOD NEARBY?

By Nino Boezio

If a person believes that God exists, he or she may still consider God to be very far away. By implication, this implies that God's attention is focused somewhere else and isn't responsive to us at all.

But God is not very pleased with this mentality. One of the things that turned God away from supporting ancient Israel was a similar 'distant' attitude it held:

Exodus 17:7 (NKJV) So he {Moses} called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

At that time, Israel had a special relationship with God. Israel had come out of slavery in Egypt and God was to establish a new nation with it. But this does not mean we cannot as individuals and in this day and age, be near God as well: *Isaiah 55:6 (NKJV) Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways", says the Lord.*

These verses urge us to examine our point of views and replace them with God's wherever there is a conflict. The reference to accessing God while He is near implies that at some future point in time, the opportunity may no longer be available.

Getting close to God involves a character re-alignment as the following verse illustrates: *Psalms 145:18 (NKJV) The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.* Calling upon God in truth requires that we change our conduct and behavior to align with God. God's commitment to thereafter intercede on our behalf is rather bold. God puts His word and reputation on the line.

Our world is built upon the mindset that God is not real and is not near. Our world does not want God to be close by. But God is accessible to all of us once we adapt to His expectations. We can tap into His powerful help in time of desperate need if we let Him.

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