

Distancing

Most medical experts agree that **physical distancing** is the most effective method of preventing the possible transmission of the Covid-19 virus; following this advice is a wise decision resulting in the reduction of potential spread to others and to ourselves. In the Bible, God speaks of another kind of **distancing**, one which is the result of individuals making wrong choices and unwise decisions in their lives. You would be wise to notice what God says about this, as it does apply to you and me also.

When God created the first man and woman, He placed them in a beautiful garden, full of everything needed for their well being and happiness. He would come down at times to commune with them, and they would enjoy God's presence and company. There was **no distance** between God and them. But when they chose to ignore the only restriction God had given (*not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil*), they no longer felt comfortable in His presence and hid from Him. They experienced the truth of what God says in Isaiah 59:2: ***Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you.*** Your sins and mine have done the same to us, creating a **huge distance** between God and us.

In Luke chapter 15, God tells us about a young man who rudely demanded that his father give him, ahead of time, the inheritance he would get when his father died. The father agreed and the son took his inheritance and moved as far away as he could. He had created a **huge** physical and emotional **distance** between himself and his father. He soon wasted all his money in riotous living, and when he was in desperate need, he finally realized his wrong choice, and decided that he had to return to his father. God tells us that when the son ***was yet a great way off, the father saw him, and had compassion on him, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*** The father's love for his son had never diminished! As soon as the son admitted to his father: « ***I have sinned*** », the father immediately forgave his son, and there was **no more distance** between them. This is what God wants to do for you! Even though your sins have separated you from God, He wants you to believe that His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, was punished on the cross so that your sins could be forgiven. If you will receive this wonderful good news, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour, there will no longer be **any distance** between you and God.

Later, in Luke chapter 16, God gives us another account, that of two men, one very rich, one extremely poor. As is true of everyone, God tells us in Hebrews 9:27: ***It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment.*** So when Lazarus, the poor man, died, he was carried by angels into Heaven. But when the rich man died, after living a sumptuous life without any thought of God, or for others, he found himself tormented in flames. He was permitted to view Lazarus in the enjoyment of Heaven, with others who had put their trust in God. The rich man is heard pleading for just one drop of water to cool his tongue. But the request is denied, and he is told: ***Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, ... neither can they pass to us, that would come from there.*** What a solemn warning this is for anyone who chooses to reject God's way of salvation that He is offering now. There is **no second chance** after death to reconsider your choice. Instead there will be an **impassable distance** separating you forever from the God who wanted to forgive you so that He could have you in Heaven with Him.

Your opportunity is now! ***Now is the day of salvation.*** (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Make the right choice now! ***Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.*** (Acts 16:31)

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