



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

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When God Is Near

Isaiah 55:6 tells us to call upon the Lord ***“while he is near.”*** Perhaps you feel, as many people do, that God is far from you and your question is: ***“When is God near?”*** The Bible tells us that **God was near** Adam and Eve after He created them physically and spiritually alive. He walked and talked with them daily until they sinned in a disobedient act of self-will and pride. God had warned that if they disobeyed they would ***“surely die”*** (Genesis 2:17). Since then, all have been born spiritually dead with a sin nature. The Bible says, ***“All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”*** (Romans 3:23). Jesus explained that we must be ***“born of the Spirit”*** (John 3:6-7). He died on the cross to ***“bring us to God”*** (1 Peter 3:18). See more on this at: www.naog.ws/theway.htm

Human self-will and pride motivate the sinful acts that keep men so far from God. Proverbs 15:29 declares, ***“The LORD is far from the wicked.”*** On the other hand, **God is near to the repentant humble.** “God resisteth the proud, but **giveth grace unto the humble**” (James 4:6). Genuine humble repentance gets God’s attention as He states in Isaiah 66:2, ***“To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”*** God says, ***“I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones”*** (Isaiah 57:15).

Psalms 34:18 tells us that, ***“The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”*** Jesus proclaimed He was sent ***“To heal the brokenhearted”*** (Luke 4:18). Psalm 145:18 says, ***“The LORD is nigh unto all them...that call upon him in truth.”*** Humbly and repentantly call upon Him now, and you will experience **God near you** as James 4:8 says, ***“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”***