



# Drawing Near to God

James 4:8

## A Present Distress

by Doy Moyer

**"I** think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is." (1 Corinthians 7:26)

Paul was dealing with a situation in which there was a "present distress." It could have been some kind of tribulation, persecution, or perhaps a famine. Whatever it was exactly, Paul advised that it would be better under those circumstances not to marry.

A "distress" here is something that creates a great hardship or severe pressure. (Thiselton). There certainly can be distresses that can cause us temporarily to alter our normal habits. We are in such a time now. It is not the circumstances Paul was dealing with, but surely we can see application. This virus does affect Christians because our practices involve close personal and social interaction. We are in our own present distress that causes us to change some habits.


This is not altogether unknown to us. If

people are "shut in," we do not expect them to meet like normal. If they are in the hospital, no one thinks they are sinning if they cannot meet. We don't tell the sick that they need to come to services and, if they don't, they aren't trusting God enough. These are personal distresses, and people need to use their judgment about what to do. This is not like altering services because I have a ball game to attend.

A present distress requires that judgments be made based upon that particular crisis. Paul advised against marriage, but said it was his judgment and there was no sin involved if someone married anyway. For us, judgments are being made about how much and how often our contact should be. Some will disagree, but here is a critical point: these judgment calls under a present distress are not about changing God's plans, overturning Scripture, disobeying the Lord's command to assemble,

showing a lack of faith, and so on. Godly people are trying to navigate their way through a storm for which they have little to no precedent. The last thing brethren need to be doing right now is calling their brethren's faith into question because they are making judgments based upon a present distress. Even if you personally don't think this is a big deal, others do, and we need to help alleviate fear and stress by showing mercy.

It will take a little time to figure it out and make the needed adjustments. Elders and churches have difficult decisions. While these decisions are being made, we need to avoid vilifying one another. Love is patient and kind.

If ever there is a time to show love, respect, and mercy, now is it. Pray for each other. Build up one another. A time like this can help us to refocus, to draw closer both to God and each other. Use the time well. 

**AM Sermon: Invitation—Daniel Ladd**

**PM Sermon: PM Service Cancelled until end of March**

# Quotables



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*Times of Services*  
Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

[www.springdalechurchofchrist.com](http://www.springdalechurchofchrist.com)

**“The holiness of God doesn’t seek the destruction of the sinner, but the destruction of sin and the restoration of life for the sinner!”**

*—Jim McGuiggan, The God of the Towel, 86*

**“Allow no thought of evil to intrude within the sacred sanctum of your mind.”**

*—Anonymous*

**“The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.”** *—Samuel Johnson*

**“He that lives to live forever never fears dying.”** *—William Penn*

## Westside Family News... (send news to [durhamchuk@aol.com](mailto:durhamchuk@aol.com))

### Prayer List:

**Tabitha Hudspeth** (cancer); **Parker Family** (family issues); **Kat Deuster and boys** (continued stability); **Kellye Hardin** (for improvement)

**Shut-Ins:** **Bill Lundy;**  
**Nadine Poteete;** **Darl Feagin**

### General Family Info:

**Darl & Betty Feagin:** No visitors at this time. **Tabitha Hudspeth** has gone home to her parents in order to be quarantined due to her compromised immune system. Pray for the expecting mothers. **Heather Kinyon** is scheduled to be in-

duced on **Monday, April 6.** Keep her, Steven and Noah in your prayers; also **Becca Leblanc**, for health and safe delivery. **Makenzie McJunkins’** father, **James McJunkins**, had surgery on **March 18** to remove his right kidney with cancerous tumors and his gall bladder at NEA in Jonesboro, AR. Everything went well. He is still in the hospital recovering. Pathology report should come back tomorrow. Treatment plan after healing. Please pray for this family. Keep **Jennifer Bean** in your prayers. **Tim & Wendi Cheatham** need our prayers. Tim lost his job recently. Please pray that he can find one in this area.

**Emma Cheatham** is back home safely. The Univ. of Arkansas has gone to online classes only for the rest of the Spring semester. **Makenzie McJunkins** has gone home. Other students will not be returning, or intermittently doing so for the time being. **Chuck** and **Wilna Durham** are in self-quarantine until Tues., March 24. The girl tested “negative” for Covid19 who had physical contact with them.

**Due to the Covid19 outbreak:** The elders made the tough decision to cancel **ALL** worship assemblies and Bible classes at Westside’s building until the end of the month. They will reassess then.