



Does God Feel Distant?

Have you ever experienced a time in your life where you felt like God was no longer close? That you did not feel God's presence? Did you ask yourself, *"Why am I feeling this way?"* I think there are seasons in every believer's life when God feels far away. Prayers seem like they are not reaching God. Scripture no longer brings comfort. Worship feels mechanical. And our heart wonders, *"Father, where are You?"*

This experience is not a failure—it's a familiar part of one's spiritual journey. Even David, the man after God's own heart, cried out, *"How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?" (Psalm 13.1).* Jesus Himself, while hanging in agony on the cruel cross of Calvary cried out, *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27.46).*

What do we do when God feels far from us? And why does spiritual distance seem to come with much confusion and shame? A lot of times, we assume that we've done something wrong. But it could be that God is not punishing us—He may be inviting us into deeper trust. When things feel silent, it doesn't necessarily mean absent. It may mean that God is trying to speak to you in a different way.

Then, there are times that the feeling of distance is our fault. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah said, *"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear" (Isaiah 59.2).* Unconfessed sin, bitterness, or spiritual neglect can cause God not to be nearby. But God's mercy is never far if we will turn to Him in repentance. God welcomes honest sorrow. Yes, we can lament and cry out in anguish just like the psalmist, *"How long, LORD, how long?" (Psalm 6.3).* Or again, *"Why, O LORD, do you stand far away?" (Psalm 10.1).* But until we are willing to acknowledge our failures and return to God, it will always feel that way.



When you feel far from God and you have not been the cause of separation, then you must let your faith lead. Keep praying. Keep reading. Keep showing up. The darkness of the valley will not last forever. Maybe it would help if you would remember the times when God did feel close. Journal them. Speak them out loud. Let the memory become a bridge back to hope. God's past faithfulness is fuel for present perseverance.

God's silence doesn't always mean His absence. He is nearer than your breath, even when He feels distant and beyond reach. The night may seem long, but morning always comes. And when it does, you will find that the God who seemed distant was walking beside you all along.

Gary

Are We Still Questioning?

Matthew 22.15-17

- 1) Have you ever been asked a question that you didn't want to answer? Why?
- 2) The religious leaders continued to ask Jesus questions they thought He could not answer without incriminating Himself.
- 3) The final confrontation of Jesus in the temple by the Pharisees occurred just a day or so before He was arrested.

The Final Confrontation Included...

I) A Question About _____ (Matthew 22.15-22).

- A) Who is questioning Jesus?
- B) What about paying _____ to _____?
 - 1) What's the trap?
 - 2) How _____ is a man who tries to _____ God.
 - 3) Do you realize that God knows everything about you? (Cf. Psalm 139.1-4)
- C) Are we giving God what is His?

II) A Question About _____ (Matthew 22.23-32).

- A) Who were the Sadducees?
 - 1) The Sadducees endeavored to _____ the resurrection and _____ Christ who taught the resurrection.
 - 2) The Sadducees method of attack was to _____ (22.24; Deuteronomy 25.5).
 - 3) _____ are one of the favorite attacks used by unbelievers.
 - 4) Jesus emphasized the importance of knowing the _____ of _____.
 - (a) What about _____ in heaven?
 - (b) How will we be like the _____?
- B) Do we live like the _____ is real?

III) A Question About _____ (Matthew 22.33-40).

- A) The enemy of our soul does not give up easily.
 - 1) We may _____ temptation, but it will be back.
 - 2) The Pharisees approach Jesus again tempting Him.
- B) A lawyer asked, "**Teacher, what is the great commandment in the Law?**" (22.36).
 - 1) What did Jesus mean when He said, "**On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets?**" (22.40)
 - 2) How did the lawyer respond?
 - 3) The Pharisees desired _____ come out of the question, but _____ came instead.
 - 4) What did Jesus perceive about the man asking the question when He said, "**You are not far from the kingdom of God?**" (Mark 12.34)
- C) How far are we from the kingdom?

Conclusion: Are you ready to become part of the kingdom of God today?

C O N N E C T I O N

o The Great Debate:

R Few topics stir more lively discussion around the fellowship hall than the age-old question: Which is better—Blue Bell or homemade ice cream?

N Team Blue Bell argues that nothing beats the creamy consistency, the perfected flavors, and the convenience of opening that familiar half-gallon. What, with over 60 flavors to choose from, what's not to like? After all, when the banana pudding flavor hits the shelves, it doesn't last long!

R Team Homemade, on the other hand, insists that no store-bought brand can compete with the taste of fresh cream, sugar, and vanilla churned by hand (or by electric motor while the kids pile on the rock salt). Homemade ice cream, they say, comes with the added ingredient of love—and maybe a little sweat from the one turning the crank!

But maybe the real answer isn't about which ice cream is better. Maybe it's about who we're enjoying it with. Whether you scoop Blue Bell into a cone or ladle homemade vanilla out of a frosty metal canister, the sweetness is found in sharing it together—with family, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ. For us "decorated veterans" of ice cream socials gone by, be ready to share some "cool" stories (pun intended) with the rookies.

So when our ice cream social on Sunday evening, Sept. 14th arrives and the debate arises, just smile and ask for a scoop of both. After all, "a joyful heart is good medicine" (Proverbs 17:22)... and maybe good ice cream is, too! Make plans to join us, you'll be blessed!

—Les Keele




Ladies'
 Come to Ladies' Night
 September 22 for an evening of
 laughter and fun!
 Watch the bulletin for more details or
 see Jennifer Scott!

Join us for an Ice Cream Social after the
 Sunday evening service on
 September 14th. Please
 bring your favorite ice
 cream to share. Sign up
 in the foyer. For
 more details, see
 Steve Taylor



SHEPHERDS

Greg Ball	214-801-7375
*Russ Bartee	817-938-5825
Dan Kille	817-793-7493
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
Tom Pauley	817- 370-5515
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
John Walton	817-441-0000

*Shepherd of the month

MINISTERS

Gary Williams:	662-321-3208
<i>Pulpit Minister</i>	
Les Keele:	817-808-0566
<i>Associate Minister</i>	
James Bowie:	817-944-4492
<i>Youth Minister</i>	

LAOTIAN MINISTRY

John Boudtaroth	817-891-2132
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DEACONS

Jon Bartee	817-889-2686
David Birdow	972-310-1143
James Bowie	817-944-4492
Zach Brookshire	817-296-9918
Brandon Duncan	903-603-1059
Jay Garner	817-205-2070
Ben Meyer	817-673-8557
Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Garner

Song Leader - Russ Jones

Song - The Steadfast Love Of The Lord

Song - O Worship The King

Song - Highest Place

Opening Prayer - Chuck King

Scripture - Matthew 22.15-17

Song - Low In The Grave He Lay

Lord's Supper - Joe Gentry

Prayer for Contribution - Joe Gentry

Song - He Lives

Are We Still Questioning? - Gary Williams

Song - Nothing But The Blood

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal - Greg Ball

Our Code for Tithe.ly

Giving



QR Code for

Attendance



Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, September 8

Job 32 - 33; Psalm 103; Romans 3

Tuesday, September 9

Job 34 - 35; Romans 4

Wednesday, September 10

Job 36 - 37; Psalm 29; Romans 5

Thursday, September 11

Job 38; Psalm 104; Romans 6

Friday, September 12

Psalm 111; Job 39 - 40; Romans 7

Saturday, September 13

Job 41 - 42; Romans 8

Sunday, September 14

Hosea 1 - 2; Romans 9

Last Week

Bible Class	131	Wednesday	93
Worship	250	Contribution	\$ 12,676.30
PM Worship	42	Budget	\$ 14,216.88

Times of Assemblies

Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening:	7:00 PM

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS

NAME	CIRCUMSTANCE	PRAY FOR
Alex Bartee 8/31/2025	He is navigating college life and the trials that come with it. 2021 Guadalupe St #711, Austin, Texas, 78705	Strength, guidance and wisdom
Lorenza Fernandez 08/18/2025	Had surgery Tuesday, 8/28 and is at home. 232 Lochness Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126	Pray for success
Charles Stephan 08/15/2025	Is now in Willow Park Rehab Room 406. 633 South Kate Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76108	Healing
Bridget Yawn 8/25/2025	Bridget's Lupus condition has returned.	Comfort and strength
Monty Bowers 8/25/2025	Recently had surgery for infection in one of his toes.	Infection to heal
Dwight Blair 08/12/2025	Has returned home and will continue his therapy. He would still appreciate visits. Please call before coming. 121 Lilac Lane, Azle, Texas 76020	Healing
Kate Birdow 08/03/2025	Her transition to college. Katelyn Marie Birdow Eagle Post - Clark Hall 1155 Union Circle Denton, TX 76203-5017	A successful school year and for her empty nester parents, David and Stephany
Mary East 7/8/2025	Has been put on hospice at home and remains very weak. 101 Rambling Trail, Weatherford, Texas 76087	Strength and comfort for Mary, and guidance for Karen and Mark Brahn
Nathan Rutledge 6/29/2025	Broke his hip and is at home healing. 1213 Trammell Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126	Quick recovery
Betty Kille 7/8/2025	Is continuing treatments if her body allows. 4112 Arroyo Trail, Fort Worth, Texas 76135	Strength, healing
LeAnn Fisher 8/28/2025	Had shoulder surgery Thursday, 8/28, in Cleburne at the surgical center.	Healing and strength
Paula Williams 8/26/2025	Will have hip surgery September 9 at 11:30.	Comfort and healing
Mary Jo Winters 9/3/2025	She will have shoulder surgery at Harris Southwest Hospital September 8th.	Healing and comfort

CONTINUE PRAYERS FOR: Anthony McGraw, Patricia Emerson, Mary Ann Poulsen, Wanda Houston's Family, Nancy Wright, Bridget Yawn, Charles Stephen, Patricia Neisler, Kittie Davis, Mignon Bandy, Sue Carpenter, Chandra Mann, Bob Willyerd, Charlie, Louise and Dwayne Beagle, Aubrey Hallum, Betty Baumann, Lillian and Charles Kite, Joe and Jody Gentry, Jacki Jaso, and Betty Adams.

FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORS PRAYER REQUESTS

NAME	REQUESTED BY	CIRCUMSTANCE	PRAY FOR
Jenna & Harrison Davis, friends of	Riley & Cassie Bowie	They had their 3rd Child, Baby Annie. Annie had surgery as soon as she was born. Annie has been in NICU since June 19th. Her first surgery was to fix her trachea to esophagus connection. Annie will also need multiple heart surgeries.	Please pray for strength , complete healing and for Annie to one day soon be able to go home and be with her parents and 2 big brothers. Also, pray for the mental and spiritual health of Jenna and Harrison. 9/3/2025
Don Pigg, a friend of	Milt Birmingham	He is in Huguley hospital with congestive heart failure.	Healing 9/3/2025
Diane, friend of	Mark and Patti Musselman	Her husband's passing.	Comfort 8/24/2025
Kyle, husband of Robert Bow's niece	Robert Bow	Had gall bladder surgery 8/21. Things went fine and he is now at home.	Healing 8/21/2025
Mance Stark, uncle of	Adam Powers	Has throat cancer and is undergoing radiation treatment.	Healing, strength for the treatments, and the family 08/18/2025
Regina Kiser, cousin of	Jennifer Duncan	Is in the hospital with pancreatic cancer.	Healing and the family as they are dealing with their loved ones affected with this horrible disease 8/18/2025
Marty Tomlinson, son of	Ross Tomlinson	Had surgery to remove kidney stones and a stint was inserted to prevent future stones.	Healing and recovery 08/12/2025
Jimena Montanez, sister to	Madeline Montanez	Will have surgery September 10 on her brain to help with her headaches following her accident in 2024.	Healing and comfort 8/25/2025
Kelsey Johnson, friend of	Jill Sloan	Is a wife, mother of 5, and nurse at Medical City Weatherford who was involved in a head-on collision on August 4. She remains in the hospital with a long road to recovery.	Healing and comfort for her family 08/12/2025
Husband of	Pam Stom	Has been moved to rehab and is improving.	Healing 08/08/2025
Pam, daughter of	Judith Dillard	Will be scheduled for a double mastectomy.	Successful surgery, healing and recovery 08/03/2025
Paul Saxton	Member at Brown Street	Has health issues in addition to blood clots.	Healing and recovery 08/03/2025
Baylee, friend of	Lilly Scott	Is doing much better.	Continued healing 7/31/2025
Jon Silcox, step-father of	D.J. Keller	Was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer.	Healing 3/22/2025
John Saxton, cousin of	Adam Powers	Has had a relapse of his brain cancer. His therapy is not working.	Guide the doctors to find treatments that will work 7/13/2025

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please note our children's college addresses.
Please pray for them and send them notes of encouragement to help them in their transition.
Thank you

College Addresses:

Alex Bartee
2021 Guadalupe St. #711 Austin, TX 78705

Caleb Bartee
#4441 Oklahoma Christian University 2501 E.
Memorial Rd. Edmond, OK 73013-5599

Ben Keller
#4799 Oklahoma Christian University 2501 E.
Memorial Rd. Edmond, OK 73013-5599

Katelyn Marie Birdow
Eagle Post - Clark Hall 1155 Union Circle Denton,
TX 76203-5017

Courtney Kirkpatrick
3000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Crowley complex
D206, Dallas, TX 75211

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Jennifer Scott

If you have unused greeting cards you no longer want, please bring them to the church office to use for an upcoming Ladies' Night.



Leah Savage

If you have left over material, lace, rick rack, ribbons or trim of any kind. Leah uses these things to make clothes, purses, etc., to send to our missionaries in third world countries.

BABY SHOWER



September 28

Honoring Baby Tunnell, Danton, and Cassidy
Proud Grandparent, LeAnn Fisher
Great Grandparents, Robert and LaRue Bow

2 PM - 4 PM

In the Fellowship Building

In lieu of cards, please bring a child's book that is special to you. It can be well loved or brand new. Please write a note on the inside to remind us of you. We also ask that you bring a pack of diapers of any size to be entered to win a special prize.

Hostesses: Brenda Freeman, Sharon Pippin, Pam Eubanks, Julie Meyer, Dorothy Anderson and Beverly Forgey

The Tunnells are registered at
my.babylist.com

Join our own David Birdow in "Walking Through The Scriptures" on **YouTube**. Simply search this title and you will be able to access his lessons. You will not be disappointed.

CONGRATULATIONS

Leah Savage

Leah Savage is a proud great grandmother! Her great grandson, Miller Allen Smith, born August 25 to Jacob and Kaley Smith. Miller has some heart problems and may need surgery later. Please remember him in your prayers.



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES

Mens' and Ladies' Bible Classes will resume Tuesday, September 9th at 10 AM

Ladies will meet in the Fellowship room and men will meet in the library.

Paula Pauley will be leading the Ladies Class. Our topic will be "The Dash In Between."

Milt Birmingham will lead the Men in a 12 Part Video Series "Bible Warfare" by Mike Mazzalongo with a follow-up of "Christian religions and Islam."

To start it all off we will have a salad potluck luncheon for everyone.

Make plans now to attend!

ATTENDANCE QR CODE

Attention

All Members

And Visitors

We Invite You To Use The QR Code For Attendance

Which Is Located On The Last Page Of The Bulletin Right Next To The Giving QR Code

We Are Slowing Making Our Way Into The 21st Century

FALL BIBLE CLASSES

Sunday Morning:

Auditorium:

Geoffery Rodman - Study Of The Psalms

Wednesday Evening:

Auditorium:

Les Keele - Fruit Of The Spirit -Galatians 5:22, 23

FOOD BANK STATS

JULY FOOD BANK STATS:

200 – Families Served

\$888.38 – Cost to WHCOC

7,709 pounds – Estimated Weight of Food

Sympathy

Wanda Houston

Services for Wanda Houston will be held, September 16 in Granbury, Texas

10 AM outside at the Granbury Cemetery

200 E. Moore Street

Tom Vilaysack

Tom Vilaysack passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family, August 8.

Gene Menzdorf

Gene passed away August 14. Please pray for Peggy and the family.

Bill Baumann

He passed away on August 22. Please pray for Betty and the family.

Dessie Willson

The sister to our Betty Adams, was 106 years old and passed away on August 23. Please pray for the family.

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight

Proverbs 3:5-6

CELEBRATE

BIRTHDAYS

2 JENNIFER DUNCAN
5 JOHNNIE WRIGHT
6 MICHAEL DAVIS
7 NATHAN RUTLEDGE
16 ISAIAS TORREZ
18 STANLEY GISH
18 JILL SLOAN
19 LEANN FISHER
20 JUDY BLAIR
23 FRANKIE SMITH
25 DEBBIE ROLLINS
25 DAVID WILMINGTON
26 MARY EAST
26 ROY EUBANKS
28 SUSIE STEADMAN
28 Kennan Williams
28 KEENAN WILLIAMS
30 DANA SABA
30 ROBERT SCOTT

CHILDREN

1 LILAH BOLT
22 KASSIE MUONGNAMVONG
25 ANDREW SCOTT

REMEMBER ME?

4 NANCY WRIGHT
19 SUE CARPENTER
19 SUE LITTLE SMITH

ANNIVERSERIES

2	TOM AND PAULA PAULEY	59 YRS
4	JAKE AND BARBIE DEKOKER	43 YRS
18	JIM AND KAREN HAAS	60 YRS
21	SAM AND DOROTHY ANDERSON	57 YRS



SEPTEMBER