

## GOD: THE DISTANT DEITY?

Dear Friend:

Have you ever walked through a tough time in your life and prayed hard for God to get you through? Have you ever consoled a friend or a loved one with the words: “God will listen, just tell him how you feel”? It is a comforting thought that the creator of the universe is there when you call out. However,...has there ever been a time in your life when you did call out and you felt like God wasn't there? Has there been a prayer that seemingly went unanswered? Perhaps tens of millions of Christians feel that everyday throughout the world. Is God a distant deity?

The belief that God exists but does not involve himself personally or daily (or even monthly) is called Deism. Simplified Deism means: “God created the world then like a clockmaker who winds up a clock, God just stepped back and is watching the clock wind down”. There are more deist than one would think. Some (not most) of our Founding Fathers were deist. Thomas Jefferson certainly was a deist; Benjamin Franklin has been labeled a deist but it is still debated. Sadly, some Christians are functional deist. What's That? It is one of two concepts. The first one goes like this: “God created me, God loves me, but I do not get to interact with him until I see him in heaven”. The second concept goes like this: “God created me, God loves me, and he will not step in until I ask him”.

Deism means God is always distant until after death. I do not want to serve a God who would be distant all my life, do you? I thank God that the Bible says: “God is our refuge and strength, an EVER PRESENT help in a time of trouble (Psalm 46:10. Search the Bible and you will find many more references like this.

In Christ's love, Pastor Mike

Prayer: Clarabell Harlan (heart recovery), Maria Sites Family, Ukrainian War situation

Events: Women's Ministry, 11:00 a.m.