

Here Is a Fresh Word From the Lord to Help You Get Through These Difficult Times – Part 2

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I want to share some thoughts with you that I believe will help you to:

“Be Secure in an Insecure World”

It has been a little over 2 months now since the world as we knew it has drastically changed. As I am writing this article I realize that whatever village, city, state or country you are living in there are still some imposed restrictions that you/we are living under. In some places the restrictions are more severe than others. In the US it varies state by state. In Europe it varies state by state and country by country. As the restrictions are slowly loosening up in the US and Europe, people are starting to have a glimmer of hope that perhaps things can return back to normal in the future. On June 15th some of the borders will reopen in Europe, making it possible for Europeans to travel from one country to another. In the US states are moving forward from one phase to another. Things are looking up.

The problem is that every day we are bombarded with news. We hear good information, bad information, misinformation and rumors. We hear about conspiracy theories. There are still many unanswered questions. Can we still trust our government, the news media, doctors and scientists? When will people start travelling again? Will there be an increase of COVID-19 spreading? Is it safe for me to be in crowds? Can I go a day without wearing my mask? Is it safe to open schools and universities? Right now 1.5 billion children from 192 countries are home from school. What will the new normal look like? What should our relationship with China be? Will our economy ever turn around? How many companies will go out of business? When will everyone be back to work again? Will there be another wave of COVID-19 in the fall or winter?

The list of questions is endless. The answers are few. We are still living in unprecedented times. The future is uncertain. There is still a lot of fear, hopelessness, worry and anxiety in the world.

Even as I write this article, I am still in denial, but it is inevitable that I will have to cancel my upcoming trip to Europe. I am scheduled to arrive in Dusseldorf, Germany May 29th and return home to Missoula, Montana from Frankfurt, Germany on June 30th. Delta Airlines cancelled my flights a few weeks ago. Sun Express Airlines cancelled my flight to Burgas, Bulgaria and back to Germany a few weeks ago also. On this trip I was supposed to be in Germany, Switzerland and France.

At this time America and Russia are on the black list from Europe because of COVID-19 and are forbidden to travel there. I have no idea when I will be able to return. I am content and have peace and joy.

What can we do as Christians to “Be Secure in an Insecure World?”

1. Stay conscious of God's presence. Most people have been in quarantine or lockdown for the last 2 months. They have been forbidden to travel, visit family and assemble together in groups. Many people have felt isolated and alone. The most important thing is to remember that you are not alone. The Lord is with you at all times. He was with Daniel in the lion's den. He was with the 3 Hebrew children in the fiery furnace. He was with Paul and Silas in prison. He is with you now. In St. Matthew 28:20 the Lord says “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

2. Give your worries and cares to the Lord. With all the information you hear every day, it can be easy to worry about the future and be burdened down with the cares of the world. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." Live your life worry free.

3. Pray to the Lord. Instead of worrying about something, pray about it. Matt. 6:8 says, "for your Father knoweth what things you have need of before you ask Him." As I have mentioned before the Lord wants to be involved in all the details of your life. This includes the small, medium, large, x-large and xxx-large. The Bible says the Lord knows what we have need of, but He still tells us to ask. Asking is a form of humility. When the answer comes you know who to thank.

4. Continue to put the Lord first in your life. It can be easy to get distracted with everything that goes on in everyday life. Priority wise the Lord can slide lower and lower on your list. Matt. 6:33 says, "But see first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." The Lord is the adder and multiplier.

5. Continue to trust in the Lord. Psalm 62:8 says to, Trust in Him at all times you people." (This is in the good times and bad times). The verse goes on to say, "pour out your heart before him." You can be honest with the Lord. Tell Him how you feel and think, be transparent with Him. Share your worries, concerns, disappointments, frustrations and fears. You will not shock the Lord or hurt His feelings. He already knows it. We are emotional beings, the Lord created us this way. I appreciate this verse because it makes the Lord personable. Because of this I can be real with Him. The verse goes on to say that, "God is a refuge for us." That means He is our shelter, our protector. "Selah" which means to stop and reflect on this verse. Man can fail you. The government can fail you. God will not fail you!

6. Live with hope every day. Hope is a spiritual force. It is favorable expectation of good things happening. Maybe it did not happen yesterday, but it can happen today. It did not happen last week, but it can happen this week. It did not happen last month, but it can happen this month. It did not happen last year, but it can happen this year. It did not happen in the last decade, but it can happen in this decade. God is a God of hope. Roman 15:13 says, "Now the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, that you may "abound" in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost. The word "abound" in the Greek is a picture of a fountain shooting water high in the air. We are to bubble over with hope while we are believing. Also we are to stay full of joy and peace while we are believing. The Lord can move suddenly in your life. Joseph had 2 dreams when he was 17. They revealed that he would come into a prominent position. Soon after his dreams he was sold as a slave by his brothers and he ended up in Egypt. For the next 13 years he had the opportunity to develop character. He eventually ended up in prison. In 24 hours, he went from being a prisoner in Egypt to second in command. The only person with more power in Egypt was Pharaoh. God can move suddenly in your life.

7. Live in faith every day. Continue to believe God to do great things in your life. Continue to believe God to work miracles in your life. Have faith for there to be a manifestation of God's promises in your life. Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

8. Proclaim God's word. Speak God's word over your situation. There is a miracle in your mouth. (Do not commit spiritual suicide in your life by speaking negative). "You can also be hung by your tongue." Hebrews 10:23 says, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised."

9. Be open for new things. Isaiah 43:18 & 19 says, "Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth." Be open for change. God is creative. Be open to do things differently. As of June 2020, I have been going to the nations for 30 years. I have made 196 trips to Europe. I have made 4 trips to Asia. That is 200 trips total. It is a disappointment for me that I cannot travel physically to Europe now. I miss not being with the people in person. I miss not getting to preach in the meetings. I miss not being able to get with people and mentor them. I had to change. I am open for new things. If I cannot come to your church and preach, I can come up with a new message, have it translated into German and French and send it to you. I have been able to stay in contact with people through the internet. Also I have been able to Face Time with different pastors and their wives. Be willing to change for a season. Do not resist change but accept it. It can make the difference between failure and success.

10. Magnify the Lord. In 1 Samuel 17:16 the Bible says that Goliath the giant came out 2 times a day for 40 days to challenge one of the Israelites to fight him. When the Israelites saw him and heard him, the Bible says in 1 Samuel 17:11, they were fearful and discouraged. Now they had 3 problems, Goliath, fear and discouragement. They would not be able to face Goliath until they first got victory over fear and discouragement, which they never did. According to 1 Samuel 17:24, the Israelites magnified the giant. According to 1 Samuel 17:45, David magnified the Lord, and because of this, he experienced victory over Goliath in verses 49 & 50. Psalms 40:16 says, "Let all those that seek the Lord rejoice and be glad in him; let such as love thy salvation say continually, The Lord be magnified.

11. Enjoy this time. Many people are thinking, "Once things get back to normal I can start living and enjoying life again." There are no guarantees in life. Every day is a gift from God. Be thankful today. In John 10:10 Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life. And that they might have it more abundantly." Enjoy this time with your husband, wife, children, grandchildren, church family, friends, neighbors, etc.

12. Continue to make manifest God's love found in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 in your life. It is a commandment to love God, love people and love yourself.

13. Be patient joyfully. Colossians 1:11 says, "unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness." While we are waiting for God to move in our lives, we need to be patient joyfully. Here we are instructed to be longsuffering. That is being patient with people joyfully.

14. Continue to give. In Genesis 26, the Bible says in verse 1 that there was a famine in the land. It was a difficult time. In verse 12, the Bible says, "Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him." In verse 14 it says, "and the Philistines envied him." In verse 12 it means that God multiplied the seed he sowed. God wants to bless you in this time that we are living in. Give your time, service, talents, treasures and finances. God will bless you for his glory.

I believe that if you do these things, you can set yourself apart from the world. I believe that you can "Be secure in an insecure world."

Quote: "We are all in the same boat, but we are not all in the same storm." Your storm is different than mine. We will all get through this together. We shall overcome!