The Coronavirus: Responding to Fear with Wisdom and Faith

“We are used to having our lives under control in North America, but a small bug is humbling the most powerful nations of the world. COVID-19 has exposed our illusion of control, and the loss of control sparks fear.” - Dr. Mitch Kim (Wheaton, IL Pastor)

Fear not

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." - 2 Timothy 1:7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 4:6-7

Christians do not fear death.

“For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is your victory?
    O death, where is your sting?”

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” - 1 Corinthians 15:53-57

Forsake not

"Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” - Hebrews 10:25

This doesn't mean you don't watch church online for a season out of wisdom and compassion for not spreading the virus. Just don't let this cause you to lose contact with your local church family altogether.
Forget not

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." - Psalm 103:2

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." - 2 Corinthians 4:17

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." - Romans 8:18

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope." - Romans 5:3-4

Worship God who is in control of all things

"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." - Colossians 1:16-17

R.C. Sproul – “There is no maverick molecule if God is sovereign. If there is one single molecule in this universe running around loose, totally free of God’s sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled.”

Suffer with others

“Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.” - Galatians 6:2

“If one member suffers, all suffer together.” - 1 Corinthians 12:26

“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” - Acts 20:35

Reflect on what God is doing

“It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made
better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.” - Ecclesiastes 7:2-4

This is a time of reflection. As sports are shut down some of us can reflect on our addiction to being amused, and how hard it is NOT having something to watch for entertainment. Instead, turn your attention back to God and His word.

Social distance, but draw near to God

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” - James 4:8

Use discretion to limit your exposure to other people during this time, but make sure to also draw near to God with clean hands and a pure heart.

Pray for an open door for the gospel

“Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” - 1 Peter 3:15

Paul in Prison - “And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.” - Colossians 4:3-4

“Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.” - Psalm 43:5

“Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.” - Psalm 46:2-3

Haven’t we been praying for revival in our world? Revival hasn’t historically come in good times but in challenging times. Could this be the answer to our prayers?

Love thy neighbor


Stark wrote the book at a time when he would not have considered himself a Christian, though he does today. He wrote it as a sociologist using social
sciences to show what the early church actually did that helped spread the movement.

One point that he highlights throughout the book is how Christianity grew because of its response to the chaos of living during the first three centuries.

Some of the chaos is from two huge epidemics, one beginning in AD 165 and the other in AD 251. It is unclear about what exactly the diseases were, but they wiped out a quarter to a third of the entire population in the Roman empire.

In response to these epidemics, Christians willingly helped those who were sick more often than did their pagan neighbors.

As a letter from bishop Dionysius dated around AD 260 says,

“Most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy... Many, in nursing and curing others, transferred their death to themselves and died in their stead.”

For many of us this could be as simple as delivering groceries to an elderly neighbor.

Actual email read by Bob Lepine on air as an example of this kind of Christian love:

Hey neighbors,

This Coronavirus thing is getting crazy, right?

I've been thinking of many of you in our neighborhood who are elderly and may be fearful of getting out of the house right now, even to shop for groceries.

If that's you, elderly and wanting to avoid contact, we want to help you.

You provide the cash (or credit card) and a grocery list, and Lisa and I will run to the store and pick it up for you, then drop it off on your porch.

Seriously, we are commanded to love our neighbors. It would be our privilege to help if you need it. Just email or text me.
Exude joy

Joy is not an option. It’s a command. "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, rejoice!" - Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” - Romans 12:12

“Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.” - Habakkuk 3:17-18

So, don't hide your light under a bushel. Shine!

This doesn't mean you shouldn't self-quarantine. But to any extent that you can, let your light shine so your neighbors see your good works and give glory to God.