

GET MOVING - A Coronavirus Comeback

It Is what it is...but it is not what it looks like! 5-10-2020

The Children Of Israel were facing the sea...

- Israel in slavery to Egypt 400 years.
- The children of Israel was fleeing for their life.
- Pharaoh had finally released them....but then changed his mind.
- He sent his army to stop them from crossing the Red Sea.

After watching God's powerful hand deliver them from Egypt; their only response was FEAR, WHINING, and DESPAIR ☹

- **WHERE** was their trust in God? Their Lack of Faith in God is startling!!!
- Israel had to learn repeatedly, God is able to provide for them!!!
- By focusing on God's faithfulness IN THE PAST, we can face crises with confidence!!!

Exodus 14:15-16 NLT - Escape through the Red Sea

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, ***"Why are you crying out to me?"*** Tell the people to ***get moving!*** ¹⁶ Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground.

When it looked as if they were trapped, Moses called upon God to intervene.

When we feel trapped...

- Instead of giving into despair, we should adopt Moses' attitude –
- STAND FIRM -
- See the DELIVERANCE the LORD will bring!!!

Moses is leading them out of bondage, and they find themselves pressed against the Red sea with the Egyptians chasing hard after them.

- They had never lived through something like this.
- They were scared to death.
- They thought Pharaoh was going to slaughter them and their children.

Was there a lot going on in the world at the time? – Yes

- Were people **fearful?** – Yes
- Were some **suffering?** - Yes

Moses being the leader had a responsibility to not be dragged down into the thinking of everybody else.

- **They're saying, let's go back.**
- **We're going to die**

But **God** held His leadership **to a higher standard**.

- **God's response to His leadership –**
- **"Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving!!!!"**

Uncharted Territory:

None of us have ever lived through an international shutdown of **non-essential** businesses before.

- **We have never seen** a time where schools, churches, and most everyday types of businesses were closed.
- **We have never** had social distancing rules for six feet of separation before.
- **Many around us** are out of work, out of money, and afraid.
- This is **uncharted territory**.
- Pastors and leaders **do not** have all of the answers.
- **Nobody does,** but **that is okay**.
- The Covid-19 Pandemic is **teaching us so much**.
- **What an opportunity to learn!!!**

Our church and its leadership must face this crisis as it unfolds just like everyone else. **GET MOVING!!!**

- We should use this as an unparalleled opportunity to get better at everything we do, and **to learn from everything we're experiencing.**

Jesus Is Our Role Model ☺

Never once in His lifetime on earth **did He panic**.

- He **never** became anxious over anything.
- **He was focused** on **His mission of truth**. **GET MOVING!!!**

Through prayer and submission to the Spirit *He calmly maneuvered through every crisis.*

- This must be the way that every believer today handles this crisis.
- We must not be easily shaken. **GET MOVING!!!**

What should Believers do in a crisis?

If you stay calm and find your peace in the Holy Spirit, God will use you in a greater capacity if you do not panic in emotional distress like everyone around you might be doing. - That is what believers must do in a crisis.

What is my point? **GET MOVING!!!**

We are currently on the Pathway to the Future

- **God had called** Moses to bring the enslaved nation of Israel out of Egypt.
- **Pharaoh would not** let them go.
- **They begin their journey** to the Promised land only to find themselves pressed against the Red Sea, surrounded by Pharaoh's army.

At perhaps its darkest moment, God opened a door to the future for Israel.

- To go there they had to pass through the divided waters of the Red Sea.

Right now, every one of us is going through a similar passageway.

- If you know anything about God, you can *easily see this coronavirus crisis is the pathway to our future.*
- This is our 'go forth from Jerusalem' moment.
- This is an open door to the most fruitful hour in modern church history.

- This is the stretch the envelope time where we develop as believers
- And learn to use every talent and resource at our disposal
- **For the expansion of God's Kingdom** in our communities and around the world.

Many among us have become criers overnight.

- We should not be so.
- We should be more visionary than ever. **GET MOVING!!!**

To our leadership - *Expand Your Shared Vision GET MOVING!!!*

In the early 1990's. ***Sony corporation had a vision that was unprecedented.***

- They weren't just 5 or 10 years ahead in their planning.
- Sony had a detailed business plan that ***extended 400 years*** into the future!
- It was ***detailed.***
- ***It would change*** as time and reality dictated,
- But it was ***a bold statement that they were in this for the long term.***

It revealed the heart of visionary leadership that emphasized they cared as much about the distant future as they did the present.

It meant that as challenges and misfortunes arise,

- ***They intend to endure, overcome, and get through it*** as a corporation.
- ***They were always going to be the leading edge and never lag behind.***
- Research the history of their products ***you will see this remains to be true.***

Believers must also realize we are in this for the long-term.

- ***Our God knows the end from the beginning,*** and
- ***He is a revealer of hidden mysteries to those who diligently seek Him.***
- ***A bold and God-inspired vision for the future –***
- Will ***pull us forward*** beyond today.
- We must ***reach forward*** for the prize.
- We ***press forward toward the promises of God.*** GET MOVING!!!

This is the era that **believers need to get alone with God,**

- ***Let Him reveal to you the plans He has for you,***
- And then ***lead your friends and family there.***

This is where God does His greatest work -

- Even if through ***incapable people.*** Through ***faith.*** Trust Him.

The Value of His Countenance

Something I have never heard discussed before by anyone, and yet it is most important for any Believer in Jesus Christ to do,

- It concerns The countenance you present to others in times of crisis.

People do not really need to see or hear your opinions -

- But they do need to see and hear Jesus.
- ***We should never compete to have our voices and opinions heard,***
- And sadly that seems to be what social media is all about.
- ***We must seize every opportunity to promote Jesus and the Kingdom of God*** to other people. **GET MOVING!!!**

John 12:20-26 NKJV - The Fruitful Grain of Wheat

Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. ²¹ Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, ***“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”***

²² Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

²³ But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵ ***He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*** ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

- This crisis is the opportunity to present Jesus to people who might not have otherwise sought His face.

Many people today are promoting their theories, prophecies, and opinions that promote fear rather than trust in Jesus during this time.

- As a believer, the best thing you can do is withdraw from these things.

I remember the foolishness of Christians who were deceived in 1988 when a small booklet was mailed out to thousands of churches and pastors across the nation.

- It was titled, “**88 Reasons Why The Lord Must Come in 1988.**”
- Many swallowed its fallacy hook, line, and sinker.
- **Why?**
- Because some of its *scriptural “proofs”* followed some of **their flawed assumptions.**

One church had a lock-in.

- They went inside their church and **waited for the Lord to return.**
- **Deception can be so ugly and humbling.**

Similar things happened in 1967 with the 6-Day War.

- One pastor preached a conference the night before, and said, “When the barbed wire fence comes down look up because **the Lord will be coming!**”
- That very night it came down!
- As soon as he heard the news, he hit his knees in prayer.
- He prayed all day long **waiting for the sound of the trumpet!**
- It agreed **with his flawed assumptions.**

It happened again in 2000 with theories of computers shutting down and the conspiracy theories surrounding Y2K.

It happened again after **Sept. 11, 2001.**

Some are making **the same mistake right now** with the Coronavirus Pandemic.

False assumptions are always rampant - **Only you can choose what to believe and emphasize.**

At My Church, Preach and believe “The Word of God.” - God’s Word never fails.

1 Timothy 1:4 CEV - You needed to warn them to stop wasting their time on senseless stories and endless lists of ancestors. **Such things only cause arguments. They don’t help anyone to do God’s work that can only be done by faith.**

1 Timothy 1:6 CEV

⁶There are some who have given up these for nothing but **empty talk.**

As a believer you *must avoid the empty discussions of* social media, *biased mainstream news media,* and *other opinion shapers.*

- **Don't become *distracted, angry, or obsessed* **by the issues.****
- **These are filling your mind *with carnal thoughts***
- **Not God's vision for your life, your family and your church.**
- It will affect your spirit **negatively.** That is not **Christ like.**

Instead, Turn to the infallible Word of God **and believe it** like never before.

- **The Word of God is true. GET MOVING!!!**
- **People need to hear the Word** so we should **Share the Word!**

Never lower yourself to the mindset of a fallen world.

- **We believe the Gospel**
- **We believe in and trust our Heavenly Father for all that we have need of.**
- **It is the good news!**
- There **will be peace** in the valley.
- **Hope** will spring forth.
- **Healing will come** to people in crisis.
- **God's Word shall not return void.**

This pandemic shall pass.

- **If we present Jesus throughout this ordeal, we will not be ashamed when this storm is history.**

We are believing God for a Coronavirus Comeback - GET MOVING!!!

- We are **doing things** now that **we've never done before.**
- **We are actually reaching MORE through our Live feeds!**

- In order to bring this live service to you, We had to move and improve!
- We're **still working on it** and it's going to get much better.
- **Once we are all back together here at MY CHURCH,**
- That **Live Feed is going to continue** to reach hundreds more each week.
- Something **we've wanted to do better** all along, but never did.
- **Coronavirus forced us into it** and now **a new ministry of this church has been born.** GET MOVING!!!

ZOOM SESSIONS: Is another live event that is happening via social media as a need we saw during this crisis.

- This time of reaching **into God's Word for direction** and encouragement will continue even after the crisis is over and we are able to come back together.
- **Coronavirus forced us into it** and now **a new ministry of this church has been born.**

I keep hearing from you folks,

- **I can't wait** until we can have church again together.
- I can't wait to be able to worship with my church family.
- I can't wait to enjoy the fellowship of God's people.

I believe Coronavirus has taught us the value of being at church when the doors are open.

- **I'm believing God** for a Coronavirus Comeback.
- Where people who have been told they couldn't come together to worship eventually comeback to church with a renewed passion to celebrate and worship our risen Lord.
- I believe we have **all learned how important** it is to be **fed the Word of God.**
- Because **we never know** what the next crisis could bring that might shake our faith if it has not been fed and founded upon the Word of God.

Coronavirus has taught us all how fragile our natural existence really is.

- Socially, economically and health wise.
- **As American believers,** prior to this virus, **we experienced God's blessings to the point that we have never had to face the challenges** that so many of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world have had to face.
- **Persecution, famine, disease, isolation, and no healthcare at all.**
- My prayer is that **our hearts will truly remain humbled** by the defenselessness we have experienced these last many weeks.
- And that **humility will place us at the feet of Jesus** and into **His caring hands of provision.**

When this is all over

- And we are months and years **past this crisis**, we are going to ask ourselves...
 - ***What did coronavirus teach you about your faith in God?***
 - ***What did it teach you*** about your need for a church to lean on when the times get tough?

I believe the resounding response, is going to be, **it brought us closer in our faith to God.**

- It taught us how much we need Him
- How very much we need one another.
- It showed us a **pathway to the future**.
- It opened **the door to opportunities** that we never had before.
- It ***forced us out of our comfort zones*** and into uncharted territories of outreach.
- It showed us that with **God's help** our resilience and confidence in Him, can be stronger than our crisis.

Listen, **nowhere in the Word of God** does it tell us that we will never go through a storm.

- Or be sick
- Or lose a loved one
- Or suffer in some way. **GET MOVING!!!**

But **Jesus did tell us** that He would never leave us, and He would never forsake us.

Romans 8:35 CEV

³⁵ **Can anything separate us from the love of Christ?** Can trouble, suffering, and hard times, or hunger and nakedness, or danger and death?

Romans 8:37-39 CEV

³⁷ In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. ³⁸ I am sure that **nothing can separate us from God's love**—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, ³⁹ and not powers above or powers below. **Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!**

CLOSE: GET MOVING!!!

He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

We are already beginning to experience a Coronavirus comeback.

We are already seeing people's lives being touched by God's providence and His healing power.

We are seeing hearts that were hard towards God, becoming soft and hungry to experience His love. **GET MOVING!!!**

We still have a way to go. GET MOVING!!!

- Probably months yet before things are back to a semblance of normalcy,
- **But there is going to be a Coronavirus Comeback** that is going to bring with it renewed faith in our hearts.

- **Realigned vision for the church GET MOVING!!!**
- **Realized salvation** for many who have chosen this time in their life to give their hearts to Jesus Christ **and experience all God has for them**.

- Let's use this time to minister to our community! **GET MOVING!!!**