

BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED by DR. AYODEJI AWE

QUESTION-90: PASTOR, I AM DOWN. IT APPEARS THINGS ARE TURNING FOR WORSE. JUST AS WE FELT WE ARE COMING BACK, WE RECEIVE THE NEWS THAT CORONAVIRUS CASES ARE SURGING IN TEXAS MEANING THAT WE MAY HAVE TO RETRACT EFFORTS AT COMING OUT TO LIVE OUR NORMAL LIVES. WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW? PLEASE SPEAK INTO OUR LIVES, PASTOR.

ANSWER: My feelings go for you with the latest announcement of latest surge of coronavirus in our state, which appears to indicate that progress in opening may have to halt- not too good news for many who are eager to see lives go back to full normalcy. My encouragement to you and others alike will be extracted from my message of today Sunday June 28, 2020 in our Fasting and Prayers Service to the entire nation, titled 'Had it not been for the Lord' (Psa. 124:1). The sermon is hinged upon the story in (2Kings 6:24-33; 7:1-20), which tells us about a nation going through a similar experience of America and the world at this time.

Know for a fact that nothing escapes the sight of God or occurs without his knowledge. Though Satan controls the affairs of the earth, understand that God still owns the patent to creations and controls the affairs of man. The ultimate solution to man's problems lies with God. I want to appeal to you, buckle up and cheer as I remind you that you are closer to the solution of the world's problem than the unbelievers, regardless of their positions. Thank God for our President, Donald Trump who had declared that the nation needs more prayers in this challenging season. He cannot be any closer to the truth and the ultimate solution; for if there is any at the corridor of control and power whether it be Robert Redfield of CDC or Dr. Tony Fauci of NIAID or Deborah Birx of CRC or the Governors of our States, or Mayors of our Cities or the Judges of our Counties who do not acknowledge that the solution lies with God, such is misplaced and cannot be trusted.

King Joram's (Jehoram) response was money when the woman who out of desperation gave up her son to be killed for dinner in a city drowned in famine called for help-"If the Lord does not help you, where can I get help for you? From the threshing floor? From the winepress?" (6 : 27). Fantastic to hear from a king who on the average struggles in his relationship with God but couldn't be far from delivering his country from the siege laid on Samaria by brutal Ben-Hadad of Syria. Following this immutable truth declaration, solution began to rear up as God moved the 4 lepers who proceeded to

discover the conquest of the Syrians by the heavenly troops that did not involve Joram or his forces that were holed up in the walled city of Samaria.

Sir, ma, with the health experts flip flopping on the national health directives regarding how to deal with coronavirus and (to their credit) not afraid to declare that there is much they do not know or are not sure of, the pressure shifts back to you and I who are God's children with full access to our Father with all power, who cannot refuse us, to ask him for help in the matter of the siege laid upon us by coronavirus propelled by Satan to plunder our nation and the earth.

So it was before God came through for Joram and Samaria. After the king was driven to the wall by frustration, he shifted focus on Elisha, knowing that he was a prophet that God could not ignore. He remembered that God had been 'money' on past occasions when the nation experienced a similar situation (1King 18:41ff). On another occasion, this same God through Elisha struck the warmongering Syrian troops with blindness leading them subdued in transit to the Market Square in Downtown Samaria at the mercy of the King and his army; and only released by the humorous kindness of God (2King 6:8-23).

Recall that there been past pandemic attacks on the world: Spanish Flu-1918, Asian Flu-1957, AIDS-1981, H1N1-2009, Eola-214, Zika Virus-2015, and now COVID-19-2019. In them all, 'had it not been for the Lord', many of us would have been swept off but it is due to the mercy of the Lord that we have not been consumed, because his compassion never fails. They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness (Psalm 124:1, Lam. 3:22-23). Those who know God in those seasons experienced the mitigation and the saving power of God through those trials.

At this junction, attention is on you and I and all of God's people to take the mantle and effect a turnaround to the nation and our world by:

1. Seeking to know the truth (John 8:32). It is only the truth and the real facts that we can work with to secure relief. There are people today talking and taking actions on coronavirus with ulterior motives. For instance, when Joram in frustration swore to kill Elijah, there were thoughts engorging his head and none of them were right (v. 31). Thank God whose antenna was then in full mode and who had decided to release solution to his people regardless. Pundits in the press sound all kinds of alarms over coronavirus, but most are with private agenda and ulterior motives. The politics of the

day had smeared and damaged the conscience of many who hold the mega phones to the detriment of the commons at the receiving end. When a news network devoted 40 minutes out of an hour to sound the alarm of spiking Corona cases but never mentioned that death rates remain flat or had continued to decline, it has engaged in misinformation with a deceptive motive to instill fear into the hearts of its listeners.

Therefore some of us will seek actual occurrences and sources for truth. One of such is the release from Governor Greg Abbott of Texas saying that acknowledging coronavirus and the economy is not optional. According to him, both are not mutually exclusive. In simple terms, citizens must evolve a way to simultaneously handle both. Regardless of the virus, the populace still has to pay their bills, put food on the table and take care of family. Therefore, as we appropriately respond to coronavirus, we also must work to make money. Thanks to the Governor whose feelings and words are different from some others whose incomes are guaranteed regardless of circumstances, who press to lock people down in fear not caring how they will survive.

2. When we know the truth and facts, we have to say it to encourage many who are around us not situated to access a lot of facts and true information. It's not helpful to watch just one network. Mix it up. For instance, if CNN is your favorite, you will be grossly uninformed if you don't watch Fox News. It makes you sharply informed when you balance your information efficiency. Whether you like it or not, life as we have it today is stuck between liberalism and conservatism. To access truth you will need to get closer to the source of information. Get to what the President or the Governor or the Mayor or Deborah Birx (CRC) actually says and not necessarily what an opinion writer or a newscaster spins out to readers and hearers. Many of these people are compromised and can be hardly trusted. Seek the truth and facts and lay them out for others to see and hear and decide for their own well-being.

3. Pray. The solution ultimately lies with God. He has preference for us and he asks us to readily ask him for help (Jer. 33:3). It is very hard for a father not to grant the wishes of his child- there would have to be a compelling reason. Normally, He reminds us that our prayers are ipso facto game changers (Jam. 5:16). The moment Joram succeeded in making Elijah go to God on their behalf, solution was assured. I ask believers and pastors not to be blindsided (though that is the strength of Satan and Coronavirus- getting the church confused and intimidated). We hold the aces.

As of today (end of June going into July, 2020) many in the church are getting comfortable not coming to church. Many are now unambiguously showing they revere coronavirus more than God. Many pastors have begun to lament what began as commonsensical conviction, which has now dawned in realistic irony. If its coronavirus only, maybe you can harass it with common sense but with Satan powering the virus, human sense is shamed except the power of God through his Spirit emerges as a vital reinforcement in this memorable battle of life and destiny. "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.." is the only weapon that works effectively against this demonic cartel we are pitted against (Ephe.6: 10). God has a good track record. One angel killed 185k strong Assyrian mercenaries (2King 19:35). Ben-Hadad and his militants were routed by a loud noise (2Kg 7:6). In both instances and many more, God's people broke through. God has a million ways unimaginable to quell coronavirus if we mean business.

Pray for our leaders who are in charge: the President, Governors, Governors, Mayors, the Congress and others in authority that their decisions be driven by the wisdom of God. A leader without God has no capability to offer availing solutions. Pray also for the scientists and their sponsors for truthfulness and sincerity as they work to find medical solutions.

4. Walk right and oblige in reasonable, sensible health and medical advisories. Good hygiene never lost. To be physically clean is virtuous. It elevates the psyche and impresses the eye. Wash your body but especially the more active parts like your hands. Disinfect objects that many touch. Maintain gaps with people you are not related to. Avoid unnecessary contacts and gatherings of strange people. If you would be close to strangers conversing or vice versa, wear a face covering (masks) to avoid droplets.

5. Exercise faith. Do not allow fear to lock you down (2Tim.1:7). Your destiny has to progress regardless. Go to church. Nothing (even, live streamed service at its best presentation) can replace the efficacy of Church Fellowship. Group fellowshiping in praise, worship and prayer is a spiritual force that terrorizes Satan and his cronies like coronavirus and guarantees victory.

6. Above all, watch and pray (Ephe.6:8). Trust God to cover for you if or when the best of your caring as a mortal fails. "They that trust in the Lord," we are encouraged, "shall be as Mount Zion.."; in that stance, you are immovable (Psa.125:1).

Finally take this home. God came through for Joram and the Israelites in the City of Samaria. In recent ages, he came for us at the incursion of the Spanish flu, H1N1, AIDS, Ebola etc. Covid-19 too will also pass. We will emerge elevated thereafter. The four lepers from being outcasts became the bearer of good news (2Kg 7: 9-10). That is our lot as we look unto God in this season.

For prayers, counseling, fellowshiping in church/online/UTube or to have your Bible or Christian life questions answered, contact us at:

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