Where is fear and isolation taking us?

The fear that seems to be generating the most concern these days… and doing the greatest amount of damage in this time of Coronavirus, is that younger or healthier people will carry the virus to someone who is older, or someone who has a less healthy immune system.

Therefore EVERYONE must “self-isolate”. Well….., sometimes… unless we have cabin fever, need food, need to visit friends and family, or need gas because we haven’t been so good at self-isolating….

Carrying the virus to others is certainly a valid concern.

However, the greater concern maybe, that our world has either forgotten or perhaps never realized… that carrying & passing virus’ is not a “new thing”! Even though the media (and therefore our world) is acting like it is…

Creating excessive fear and worry…

I was reminded this week of a story that is very true…

One that people would do well to remember and share at this time...

ONE EVENING, A VERY WISE

ELDERLY NATIVE AMERICAN MAN TOLD HIS

GRANDSON ABOUT A BATTLE THAT

EXISTS INSIDE EVER PERSON.

HE SAID "MY SON, THE BATTLE IS

BETWEEN TWO 'WOLVES' INSIDE US ALL.

ONE IS FEAR…

MANIFESTED BY ANGER,

ENVY, JEALOUSY, SORROW,

REGRET, GREED, ARROGANCE,

SELF-PITY, GUILT, RESENTMENT,

INFERIORITY, LIES, FALSE PRIDE,

SUPERIORITY, AND EGO.

THE OTHER IS FAITH.

MANIFESTED BY TRUTHFULNESS, LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE,

KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS

GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL."

THE GRANDSON THOUGH ABOUT

IT FOR A MINUTE AND THEN ASKED

HIS GRANDFATHER:

"WHICH WOLF WINS?..."

HIS GRANDFATHER REPLIED,

"THE ONE YOU CHOOSE TO FEED"

Feeding one’s Faith in God when trouble is not as apparent, is highly important because it prepares them for the trouble that lies ahead.

Isaiah 40:31

Do you believe that God loves you and wants the best for you?

Those who trust & hope that the Lord will fulfill His promises… live above the noise (trials and fears of this life).

Can you relax in the confidence that God is in control like the disciples in the boat with Jesus?

Your faith may be struggling or weak, but if you will feed your faith it will grow and cause fear to subside.

God promises that you will have renewed strength translating to a greater ability to trust Him.

God promises that your increased faith in His ability, will cause you to soar high above the cares of this world, like an eagle does.

You will have the courage and stamina to “press on” and be faithful, even when others don’t seem to be.

As Christians we will face frightening situations.

We are not immune to trouble.

One summer, Dee and I took our three children to the Phoenix Zoo (so it was sunny & blazing hot). Matthew was 6, Stephanie 9, and Sarah 11-12.

Dee went into the restroom, and I noticed across the way I saw a sign for the Rhinoceros, so I took the kids over to see, so they wouldn’t be board.

The large, wise Rhino was sleeping probably about 20 yards away in the shade.

Matthew was wearing a baseball cap to keep the son out of his eyes…

He leaned over the wall to take a peak at the Rhino and his hat fell off his head and into the Rhino’s den.

I’m like, oh great! Now he’s going to be complaining the rest of the day about how hot it is, and the sun being in his eyes…

I was surprised that the wall was only about waist high and the den was about 6 feet deep.

I called to our oldest daughter Sarah and said “I’m going to lower you in to get your brother’s hat. Kinda like a secret mission!

I lowered her down, she got the hat, I helped her up and the Rhino never moved.

It was tense… for sure. But in that moment none of us focused on, and been paralyzed by what might of happened… Today they might think we should have…

And Dee never would have found out about it, if our youngest daughter Stephanie (9 ) wouldn’t have asked Dee when she came out of the restroom, “can I go into the Rhino’s den next, like Sarah did?”

Talk about fear! I felt it that day!

Jesus disciples faced all sorts of fearful situations as they walked with and learned from the Savior.

* Faced tax collectors with no money in their pockets.
* They faced a multitude of people and Jesus saying feed them.
* Ultimately the One they had devoted their lives to for the last three years would be nailed to an “old rugged cross”, while they sat in a locked room in fear that they might be next.

Notice that in each case, Jesus brought His disciples to the place where their human resources were insufficient.

Perhaps some of us feel something similar these days… when we walk into grocery store and numerous things that we normally buy are not there?

One can walk in there with their bank account “busting at the seems”, but your resources are insufficient, because they can’t buy you what you need.

Although it may be very difficult, it is beneficial to one’s faith, for God to bring them, on occasion, to the place where they are reminded that Christ is the only resource they need.

Why would a good God do that? Because He knows people are not likely to go there on their own. And they become Christians who have a greater faith in themselves, trusting in their riches & resources.

But in taking us to that humbling place… through our relationship with the Father, through the blood of His Son Jesus, sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption, we find that He always provides!

 The answer to fear is faith in God’s presence in our lives.

Psalm 23:4 "though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death..."

When I was in Bible college, the professor took us to a passage and I wrote this note;

Isaiah 40:28-29

As Christ followers we will face confusing circumstances.

We won’t always understand our situations.

Less than positive things will happen for no apparent reason.

* You or your loved one may lose their job.
* You or your loved one may get the Coronavirus.
* You or your loved one may die. (We all will someday)

And often the more we try to figure these things out, the more confused and fearful we get.

The Lord instructs His people in Isaiah 41:10, "Do not fear, be not dismayed."

* Quit trying to figure it all out.
* It isn't necessary to understand God's ways.
* Feed your faith with "All things work together for good..." Romans 8:28 and watch what appears t be negative, turn into a positive.

"But I don't see what good could come from this."

That's none of your business, it's His!

We find it so hard to rest in faith.

We seek to understand why.

If you really knew what God was doing, you'd probably panic!

God is working on a much HIGHER level than you or I will EVER be able to understand. Eternal, not temporal.

Yet faith is the only place where you will ever find true rest.

* He says: "I am your God."
* He doesn't give answers, He gives Himself...
* "I will strengthen you." He promises.

Do you feel your strength slipping, like you can't hold on much longer?

Don't be afraid, He is there.

He has promised… "I will help you."

Have your friends/family/co-worker let you down just when you felt you needed them the most?

Does the load you are carrying seem too heavy for you?

* Don't be dismayed, He is there.
* He says, "I will uphold you."

Feed your faith with this: There's absolutely no way you can sink, because He's holding you up.

With what? "With His righteous right hand." (the hand of favor and blessing)

Believe this

* The Universe was made with His fingers.
* The same fingers that He promises to hold you with.

Better days are ahead for those who believe and hold His hand!

Feed your faith the “good stuff” of faith…

Not the “junk food” of fear…

You know what happens to your body when you feed it junk…

You wind up with too much junk in your trunk! As momma used to say…

* The Lord bless you and protect you;
* The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
* The Lord lift up His face upon you and give you peace.

As you leave His house with Joy and feed your faith.