

A Christian Perspective in Times of Trials

This last week has been totally crazy with the COVID19 virus. A month or two ago, no one had heard of Coronavirus and now everybody is affected by it (no pun intended). Wall Street has a sharp decline over the last few weeks, whole industries are threatened because of a band on traveling to Europe. Cruise lines, hotels, sporting events are all affected. More importantly is the threat to human life. The Governor of Kentucky went so far as to suggest churches cancel services. What should Christians think in times of trials like this one?

Generally, people tend to fall into three categories. The first is the chicken little group. The sky is falling and we are all going to die so we might as well give up. Second is the "I don't believe it until I experience it" category. They are skeptical and have to have more proof. Then there are the wise and prudent folks like myself. Of course, I jest but this is the cautious not panic group. I like to think of us as being ruled not by emotion but logic. Once again, I ask the question, "How should Christians react during trials such as this one?"

Remember, faith is rewarded but stupidity is not. By faith I mean a trust in God's word and a further trust in God. I think most of us know stupidity sometimes masquerades as faith but is not based on God's word and just how we feel. If you are sick and afraid of being contagious then stay at home. But to stay away because someone else may be sick is a lack of faith. Paul placed his life in the hands of God, Philippians 1.21-24. We should not intentionally place ourselves in danger but should be brave in times of danger. Faith makes us better while fear hinders our service to God

Trials give us reasons to examine ourselves. "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified." (2 Corinthians 13:5) A rich young ruler came to Jesus wanting to know what he needed to do so as to inherit eternal life. His second question was "What do I lack" (Matthew 19.10). If we could approach Jesus and ask "What do I

lack?" What would He say?

During times of trials we need to think of others. To help the orphans and widows as James 1.27 says. Think of those who need the Gospel or words of encouragement or a friendship.

These are some things we as Christians need to think about. – Dennis Tucker