

## Good Things From The Pandemic

This morning I went for a walk. Not far from the farm is the Western Kentucky Parkway which was busy with trucks and cars going east and west. I remembered the sound or lack of sound during the months of March and April. The shutdown created many problems economically with social isolation. But I got to thinking of how nice it was to have the sound of silence.

While there have been trials and test over the past eight months, economic hardship, loneliness, sickness, social unrest, anxiety, and more could go on this list. Which I admit has been worse for some than others and is still going on.

Which made me think of the good things we can connect to the pandemic. This may be trying to find the silver lining with a dark cloud but I do believe good things have come about from the events since March.

I made up my list but was curious what others would say of the good that came out of this pandemic and here what various people said.

*Taking time to sit and think about things in your life that needs prayer and asking others to pray with you and during this time praying for family and friends that need to come back to God*

*I am with my husband 24/7 and I still love him. He is great and helps me so much more since we don't eat out and I cook so much more than I ever did. (I have learned I hate to cook and will NEVER COOK again after this pandemic is over). Several women I know are praying and turning to God for protection for their families, for jobs & for stress relief. I have more time for my devotionals, reading the Bible and praying. We have the technology to do worship, bible study and prayer groups on line via Zoom and Go to Meeting. I have met & prayed with many new Christians this way. I am not so picky about things like brands of groceries. Instead of something having to be this or that way, I am grateful for ANY food (& toilet paper) 😄. I have learned to rely on God's faithfulness and to praise Him for all His attributes. I wish I had stock in Amazon as I'd be wealthy. I've had time to reassess what is and isn't important in life and I've had the courage to talk to others about God and His word. I learned I'd never had made it this far without God's giving me patience and strength because we are alone here without family*

*& friends because we are in the high-risk population and we keep our distance. No social mingling as we used to. We have learned to recognize those in financial need so we can help them & do.*

*Realizing how much we miss seeing people at services and spending time talking.*

*A new generation will come from this pandemic. Parents are “learning” about their children through Home School and their relationships are being challenged. It is good for parents and children to understand each other. Lord willing authority will be reestablished? We are reevaluating what is truly needed and cherishing what we have. I have stepped back and focused more on God. His blessings are astounding! Our children, their children, our brethren and neighbors are in my mind more. What can I do to help? I’m finishing projects from years past. The TV is less important as a distraction. Spending time with my husband and learning more from him. It is easier to read the Bible together. I do see the stars and hear the rolling thunder. I can breathe without worldly cares.*

Say what you will about the pandemic but I do believe there are good things to come about from the past eight months.

**Realization of taking our blessings for granted.** I refer to the “hot water” problem. Most of us have recently taken a shower/bath and used hot water. Be honest and answer the following question, “Did you think about the blessing of having hot water or did you take it for granted?” I will admit to taking it for granted. In fact, the only time I really think about the hot water is when there isn’t any and I am stuck taking a cold shower! Then I really think about how nice hot water is.

We are so blessed in our country and it is easy to take them for granted. The blessing of having food in the grocery stores, being able to give hugs, eating out at a sit-down restaurant, having someone go with you into the doctor’s office, having somewhere to go on vacation, and the list goes on. As mentioned to me the blessing of being able to worship together and having a spiritual family which cares about you. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” (Ephesians 1.3).

**A change in priorities.** It is easy to get your priorities skewed when things are going well. We get really busy at work or our children are doing a million things with school and sports that we just don't have time for God. Have you ever been too busy to pray, read your Bible, or go to worship services? Some people will say yes and they can point to all the things they are doing. Think about the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3. They are known as the "luke warm church" and were told to be zealous and repent, read Revelation 3.14-19. Notice their problem wasn't idolatry, or false doctrine, or immorality, as was the problem at places like Pergamos and Thyratira. Their problem was a "zeal" problem. What is a "zeal problem"? It is having the wrong priorities in life.

Hopefully, some have realized over the past eight months, they can live without 24/7 sports on television, their children don't have to be always practicing or playing a sport. We can live at our homes, cook there and eat there.

**Opportunity for more Bible study.** We all know we should study our Bibles. How many do? This goes back to our point about priorities and blessings. We are blessed to have the Bible. Our problem of studying the word of God is not its availability (as in some countries) or persecution (as in places like China) but is due to our priorities. But the shut down and being at home has given all of us more time to read, and to think about what we have read.

Like many I do pray for this pandemic to end soon but I don't necessarily want things to go back to "normal". Hopefully, we will be better than just normal, we will be blessed. Dennis Tucker