

**DAUPHIN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - MARCH 15, 2020 - TAKE HOME ENCOURAGEMENT**

Worry implies that we don't quite trust that God is big enough, powerful enough, or loving enough to take care of what's happening in our lives  
~Francis Chan

This week has been stressful for sure, there's no denying I've felt fear where I normally don't. But God has told me that my power is in HIM and in MY response to that fear...

**“For God gave us a spirit NOT OF FEAR, but of Power and Love and Self-Control.”**

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

That verse is so simple, but yet so very powerful. If we break it down it tells us all we need to know in these unsettling times...

**“Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”**

Ephesians 6:17 NLT

We have the Power to control our minds, what we think and what we focus on. We need to focus on God And Put our trust in Him...

**“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!”**

Isaiah 26:3 NLT

We have the Power to Pray for all those doctors, nurses, patients and families affected and yet to be affected....

**“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”**

Ephesians 6:18 NLT

We can Pray for God's peace that He left with us that surpasses all understanding to come and fill the hearts and minds of everyone...

**“Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.”**

Philippians 4:6-7 MSG

Now is the perfect time for Us to step up and Show God's Love in Action... God's Love shown to others provides Peace, Comfort and Joy that only He can provide...

**“God's kingdom isn't a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness' sake. It's what God does with your life as he sets it right, puts it together, and completes it with joy. Your task is to single-mindedly serve Christ. Do that and you'll kill two birds with one stone: pleasing the God above you and proving your worth to the people around you.”**

Romans 14:17-18 MSG

Now is also the perfect time for self-control. The Message translation says sensibility, which I think is perfect. God wants us to be sensible and make informed decisions...

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**“A gullible person will believe anything, but a sensible person will confirm the facts.”**

Proverbs 14:15 TPT

We can also pray for our world leaders to be filled with wisdom and sensibility that God readily provides...

**“People lose their way without wise leadership, but a nation succeeds and stands in victory when it has many good counselors to guide it.”**

Proverbs 11:14 TPT

We are not in control of what goes on around us, but we are in control of what goes on inside us....

**“Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.”**

Phil 4:8-9 MSG

And God IS in control. Let’s NOT forget that!

The Bible tells us all through it that tribulations will happen. But over and over it tells us that He is with us and He is over all...

Jesus words to us today!

**“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”**

John 16:33

May we praise Him continually as we put our Hope in Him and let Him fill us with His Peace and Joy!!!

**“Let this hope burst forth within you, releasing a continual joy. Don’t give up in a time of trouble, but commune with God at all times.”**

Romans 12:12 TPT

AMEN!!!

Carla Strang, March 14, 2020