



There will be Peace in the valley for me

A Tale of Two Perspectives

*Though the wind is raging all around; and even though the waves may rise,
there's a place of stillness in the storm, and you can find it if you will believe.*

*It's a soul anchor, Hold on to the Hope. It is a soul anchor; just hold on to your courage.
Before we call, He answers us with Hope*

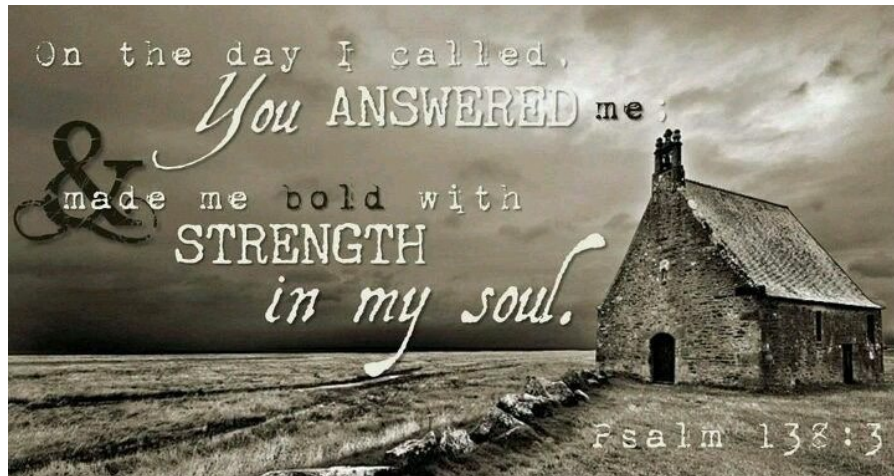
*We are so sure of what we're waiting for, and certain of the things we do not see;
For we are told by the One who cannot lie, and in this Hope is our security.*

*It's a soul anchor, hold on to the Hope. It is a soul anchor; just hold on to your courage.
Before we call, He answers us with Hope.*

*So hold fast and draw near, it's a soul anchor.
Hold onto the Hope; hold on to your courage. Before we call, He answers us.
He answers us with Hope.*

*Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the **full assurance that Faith brings**,
having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with
pure water. Let us **hold unwaveringly to the Hope** we profess, for **He who promised is faithful**.*

*And let us consider how we may **spur one another on** toward Love and good deeds,
not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-
and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:22-25)*



Good morning, guys, and welcome to our table a new fellow!! David Baunach is a member of Suburban Bible Church in Highland and his wife, Carol, is one of Linda's Harmony Handbell ringers. Great to have you, Brother.

In this crazy new, topsy-turvy day where things are shutting down all around us and folks are staying behind closed doors; Jesus says, bring who we are and where we are and bring it to Him. Bring our disrupted lives, interrupted schedules, our frailty, failure and, yes, fear and put it in His hands. He can make something special out of it ([Romans 8: 28](#)) and out of our emptiness, He can bring fullness.

The Truth of Jesus is like an Anchor for our soul. We put our Faith in the veracity of the One who is true and hold fast to that Hope. We know that with Christ, we are going to be alright; and yet, there always seems to be two perspectives to a subject, a Truth, that seemed to have clarity.

The reality of COVID-19, for example brings out the survival bunker types and the 'hoarders' but also the scoffers and uninterested folks. One says, stock up, while another says, it's a bunch of baloney. Perspective can differ because of personalities, bias, bents and backgrounds. But they also differ when influenced by bad narrative, wrong information and fake news.

We are given the power of discernment and from each person's individual perch, we see things from differing angles. We can examine a topic that has more clarity than usual and come up with many widely differing views. We all understand, for example, the Truth of stewarding our money well. The economy, after all, only works well with the velocity of money. But for some that means long-range, steady-growing stocks while to others it means working and storing as 'with hair on fire.'

The Wisdom of the prudent is to discern His way, but the folly of fools is deceiving. (Proverbs 14:8)

And then there is God's perspective. There is Biblical Truth that indicates that without God, your perspective is skewed, and all seems like crisis ([Ecclesiastes 2: 11](#)) Despite a very clear picture of His involvement over us and the world, we again see a variety of responses and what can be a more significant topic than God Almighty?

A man's heart plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps (Proverbs 6: 9).

With the increasing coronavirus cases outside of China, many believers across the United States wonder how to respond to the increasing alarm. What would God have us do in the face of a growing international health crisis? Should our churches close their doors for fear of spreading illness?

Should we take my kids out of school and practice 'social distancing'? Cancel travel plans?
How should we **help a panicked world**?

We can help by recognizing and exposing the one who interferes with perception and excites bad perspective. We can ask, why the confusion? In a word: satan. Satan wants ever so much to distract us from the Truth, to separate us from Father God, to get in between us and our glorification of God and to wreak havoc. His tools are deception and temptation. Jesus assures us that satan was a liar from the beginning, and we read that all of his tools begin with clouding our view to muddy the clarity. Once he has our attention (marred, tho it is) he can incite denial, rebellion, and fear.

How to combat all that confusion in a broken world, how to grasp godly perspective?? Use the Bereans as an example and **eagerly** examine and study the Scriptures ([Acts 17: 11, 12](#)), join a discipleship group like ours and listen, learn and take action!

*But in your hearts, sanctify Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give a defense to everyone** who asks you the **reason for the Hope** that you have. But respond with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who slander you may be put to shame by your good behavior in Christ.*

For it is better, if it is God's Will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

(1 Peter 3: 15-18)

We strive to know the Truth of God because Jesus promised us that the Truth would set us free ([John 8:32](#)). Truth about any topic promises clarity of vision, realization of our standing before Him (and all that that means) and **freedom from unmerited fear**. And we are promised that there is *no fear in perfect Love* ([1 John 4:18](#)). Satan is actively involved in our fractured environment; but the Holy Spirit is, too. We are persuaded by both. When we look around and say, what is going on?? How do I proceed??

We can choose the tangible Truth of God, **the better perspective**; we can dive into His Word, the biblical Truth and trust in His promises. We can put our Faith in the veracity of the One who is true and take the next step forward.

Jesus countered the devil's temptations (in the wilderness) with Scripture **and the devil ran.** ([Matthew 4: 11,12](#))

Step out in Faith, Brother. *Without Faith it is impossible to please God* ([Hebrews 11: 6](#)). There's just no getting around this. God is not going to send you a burning bush to tell you what to do (He already did that); but He has given His Holy Word and the lesson of the 'bush' and His Holy Spirit to guide you there.

We can put our Faith in these loving gifts and trust Him.

Step up, Bro. God is bigger than any ol' coronavirus.

Let's address worry for a moment. We need to remember what we know. Worry is not our friend, and panic is not our way. Solomon reminds us, *if you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small* ([Prov. 24:10](#)). God's people know that we reach beyond fear and grasp onto Faith. Corrie ten Boom, survivor of Nazi fascism (a different form of deadly virus) reminds us, *Worry doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrows, it empties today of its strength.*

While we remain on alert against viruses of doctrine or disease, worrying won't change our circumstances or lower our chance of infection. It won't help us fight off illness or move us to action. Worrying about COVID-19 (or anything else) will only increase the trouble. Rather than worrying and being anxious, Jesus calls us to respond with prayer ([Philippians 4: 6](#)) and Faith ([Matt. 6:33, 34](#)).

In times of crisis, the world needs steady Believers like us who are strengthened by God's Grace, directed by His Word and empowered by His Holy Spirit. Worry accomplishes nothing except weakness of heart and soul. It's been said that 90% of the things we worry about never happen, and the other 10% are outside of our control. But totally within the control of a sovereign God who loves us dearly. So, in lieu of all that: Don't worry – be Happy!! 😊 (Sorry, couldn't help myself!)

*Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.
Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (Matthew 6: 33, 34)*

We need not worry ultimately because we know the One who has defeated sin and death (1 Corin. 15:55) and brought us victory. We remind ourselves continually: it takes the same amount of energy to worry as to pray. One leads to Peace, the other to panic. And so, we consider everything against the Word of God: "You belong to Me (Psalm 100:3), I'm in charge (Job 38:1-41), take your lumps, I got this." Choose wisely; love well and trust Him.

*Thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved Brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
(1 Corinthians 15: 57, 58)*



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1: 5)

Let's go into prayer.

P.U.S.H. Pray Until Something Happens

Prayer: a passion for the Presence of God!



*Be joyful in Hope, patient in affliction, **faithful in prayer.** (Romans 12: 12)*

*Prayer is more powerful than all your self-efforts. Pray **big** and watch God work.*

When prayer becomes your habit – miracles become your lifestyle.

Thru prayer, we can tell our tale to the Holy One who listens. He can set us on the true path, the correct perspective. We can see the way God's Will sees and be heartened.

Thru prayer, we have communion with Father and we don't need a burning bush. We have the Holy Spirit dwelling within, and His perspective is ours to embrace.

What about tomorrow? I don't know. Who knows what tomorrow has in store; other than, I'm sure that tomorrow there's going to be a lot of disinfecting and there's going to be a lot of fear. And you know, it's a lot easier to disinfect your hands, than it is to disinfect your heart. To disinfect your fear.

*Fear is an infectious disease, as well. It passes very quickly among people and it **rises in our hearts without almost any effort.***

*What is fear? Fear is the anxiety over the potential loss of something that is really important to us. The Bible tells us that those most important things are the actual, **functional gods of our hearts.***

(Pastor Steve, Disinfecting Fear, Sun. March 15, 2020)

Therefore. we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal Glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4: 16-18)

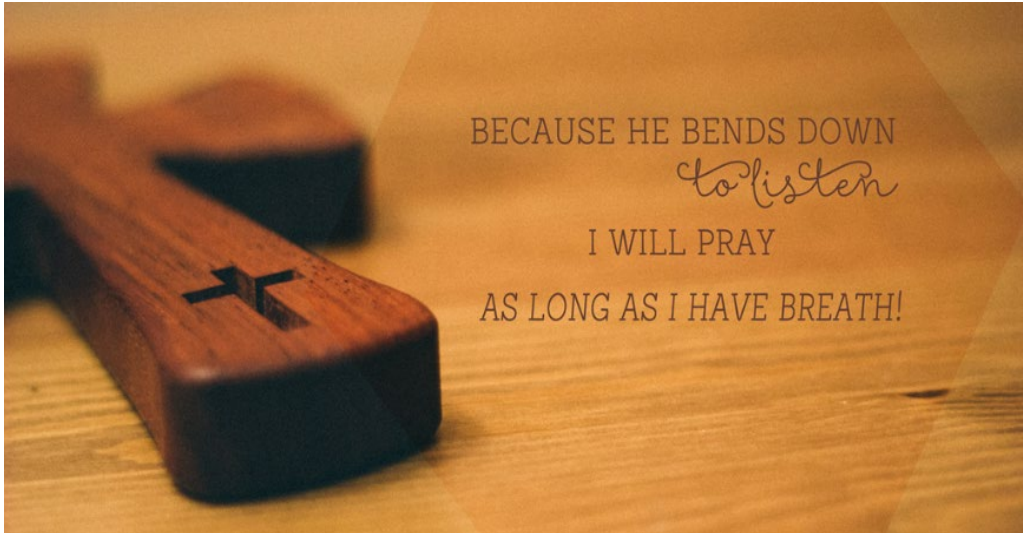


Men ought always to pray, and not to faint. (Luke 18: 1)

Prayer is our powerline.

Let us saturate everything we do in prayer.

Prayer is the intimate, honest expression of the soul's dependence on God.



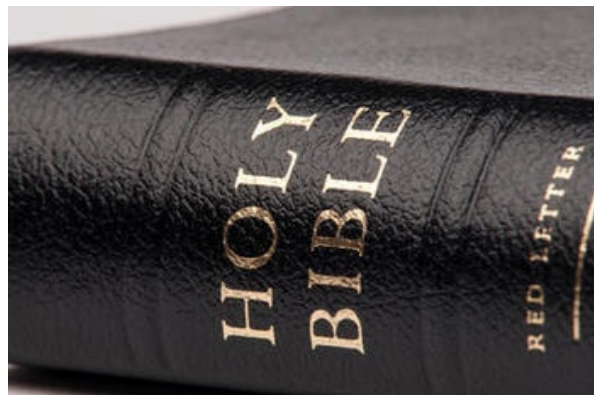
Who can you pray for today?

Who might God be putting in your path?

Call onto me, and I will answer thee. (Jeremiah 33: 3)

*In the morning, Lord, You hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait expectantly.*

(Psalm 5: 3)



Let the fragrance of our prayers arise



Dale's crocus pushing thru the snow, loving the sun!

I constantly remember you in my prayers. (2 Timothy 1: 3)

God Sightings/God Residing

See God thru His amazing creation. Embrace God thru the work He is doing inside you.

Stop and consider God's wonders. (Job 37: 14)

He put another parable before them, saying, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." (Matthew 13:31, 32)

Can you see the magnificence of God in that little mustard seed?

Our newest member, David, is a retired engineer from NIPSCO. He helped take care of his new granddaughter, who has special needs and has been a substitute bus driver for a special-needs bus. A fellow worker revealed that a woman and her child were displaced when her ex-boyfriend trashed the apartment, including spreading used motor oil over everything. She didn't even have basic toiletries. David's Church, Suburban Bible, has a pantry, and David delivered a package to the gal he works with. The mother and lady were overjoyed, and David began to see the fruits of his obedience to Father's assurance that, 'You're in the right place where I want you, David'. He was glad to see the affirmation of someone he could specially help, because of his presence as a bus driver. So great to see Father God in the hands and feet and compassion of Believers.

***I believe in Christianity as I believe in the rising sun;
not because I see it, but by it, I can see all else. (C.S. Lewis)***

What parts of God's Creation cause you to respond in awe and wonder? What characteristics of God, found in us and manifested in our service, cause you to consider His depth? *I praise You because I am*

fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful; I know that full well. (Psalm 139: 14)
Don'tcha just see His fingerprints everywhere??

*The leader of our college singing group directed the group and accompanied us on the piano at the same time, skillfully balancing those responsibilities. At the close of one concert, he looked particularly weary, so I asked him if he was OK. He responded, 'I never had to do that before.' Then he explained: 'The piano was so out of tune that I had to play the whole concert in two different keys – my left hand playing in one key and my right hand in another!' I was blown away by the startling skill he displayed, and I was **amazed by the One who creates** humans to be capable of such things. King David expressed an even greater sense of wonder when he wrote, *Thank You for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous – how well I know it (Psalm 139: 14).* Whether in people's abilities or nature's marvels, the wonders of creation point us to the majesty of our Creator. One day, when we're in God's Presence, people from every generation will worship Him with the words, *You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive Glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being (Revelation 4: 11).* The amazing skills God gives us, and the great beauty God has created are ample reason to worship Him. (Bill Crowder, Pastor, author, Vice President of Ministry Content at ODB Ministries)*

God sightings stir us to worship. And I stand in awe of You.

Have you seen God, lately?

Focus on Faith

Faith is not a cushion for me to fall back upon – it is my working energy. (Helen Keller)

It's not the strength of your Faith that saves you, but the strength of Him upon whom you rely.

(Charles Spurgeon, Pastor, author, 'Prince of Preachers')

Faith doesn't mean you don't get afraid – Faith means you don't let fear control you.

*By Faith one was commended for the sacrifice he made; another out of Holy fear built an ark the world to save.
Another left his homeland and as a stranger he'd reside; but none received the promise then,
And so, in Faith, they died.*

*Others conquered kingdoms, quenched the fury of the flames.
Some made strong in battle, some were raised to life again.
But many more were martyred midst the crowds loud clamoring.
By Faith they would not bow the knee nor kiss the emperor's ring.*

*Faith understands and offers. It assures and calms our fears.
It can shut the mouths of lions and make sense of scars and tears.*

We persevere in Hope and with conscience clean and clear, we walk this fallen wilderness
With Salvation's Pioneer.

*Being sure of what we hope for, seeing what is yet unseen; a universe from nothingness,
New life where none had been.
The known made from unknowable and Hope for the comfortless, who hear and hold on firmly to
The Faith that they possess.*

*So fix your eyes upon the Champion as you seek to run the race,
Understanding that He cheers you on as you long for His embrace.
So hold on and do not grow weary of the Faith that you profess,
Remembering that you are ringed around by this cloud of witnesses.*

Faith is: to Hear (Romans 10: 17), to Believe (Hebrews 11: 6), and to Obey (James 1: 22) the Word of God (Matthew 6: 33, 34).

Faith is the currency of God's economy.

Conclusion

So, Brother, a tale of two perspectives. Are you, 'Bunker Boy,' stocking your MRE or 'Bunch of Baloney Boy,' taking it easy?? Either way, a perspective we can be sure of is, respect for others who are more susceptible to illness, including the elderly and immune-deficient. We should operate with prudence and compassionate care, all the while modeling the strength and Hope characteristic of those who know Christ. We should probably also have compassion for those who choose to respond differently or react more strongly to circumstances and events. And remember, the adversary is always working, tarnishing perspectives, so be gracious towards one another. Continue to lead and minister in ways that express Father's Love for His children. Recognize there is some subjectivity in responding to this crisis, even among those listening to and seeking God's wisdom. as Christians, empowered with the strength, Peace and perspective of Christ, we can help them carry on.

Whenever we find ourselves overwhelmed by life, we have two choices; we can focus on our circumstances; or fix our eyes on Jesus. If we choose to look to Christ above all else, we will see that the storms we face are not nearly as powerful as the Savior choosing to walk thru that storm alongside us. To be sure, life is a journey with many unpredictable moments; many sad and tough times, but also, many 'mountain top' experiences. In all of this, the Lord will *never leave us nor forsake us* (Deuteronomy 31: 6). He is our one constant, our Anchor throughout life. Our appropriate Faith response can be, Lord, help me find my rest in You, my Peace in you. Help me trust Your Word: *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* (Matthew 11: 28)

So sorry we can't meet at **Eli's Golden Apple** this week. I will miss my Florentine omelette and those wonderful grits!! We will all miss Marija (please pray for her) but we don't have to miss each other as we will ride out the corona virus online. Mike has e-mailed each of you instructions for our 'Zoom' meeting. We can see and hear each other. We can talk about it (you'll be glad you did) and the discipling and relationship building will carry on. God will be glorified, see you then, your Bro. in Christ, Dale.

Questions or problems with the 'Zoom' app, please call Jay at (412)719-0950 or Mike at (219)808-7893.

Breakfast Benediction

May you all be Blessed real good!

The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you Peace.

So, shall they put My name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them. (Numbers 6:24-27)

.....and may the dust of your Rabbi's feet cover your clothing.

When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high, and don't be afraid of the dark.

At the end of the storm, there's a golden sky, and the sweet silver song of the lark.

*Walk on, through the wind; walk on, through the rain,
Though your dreams be tossed and blown.
Walk on, walk on, with Hope in your heart, and you'll never walk alone.
You'll never walk alone.*



*The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
(John 1: 5)*

*If I were You, I would've given up on me by now, I would've labelled me a lost cause,
Because I feel just like a lost cause.
If I were You, I would've turned around and walked away. I would've labelled me beyond repair
Because I feel like I'm beyond repair.
Oh, but somehow You don't see me like I do. Somehow, You're still here.*

*You're the God who stays, You're the God who stays.
You're the One who **runs in my direction when the whole world walks away.**
You're the God who stands with wide open arms,
And you tell me nothing I have ever done **could separate my heart from the God who stays.***

*I used to hide every time I thought I let You down. I always thought I had to earn my way,
But I'm learning You don't work that way.
Because somehow You don't see me like I do. Somehow, You're still here.*

*My shame can't separate, my guilt can't separate, my past can't separate; I'm Yours forever.
My sin can't separate, my scars can't separate, my failures can't separate; I'm yours forever.
No enemy can separate, no power of hell can take away, Your Love for me will never change.
I'm yours forever.*

*You're the God who stays, You're the God who stays.
You're the One who **runs in my direction when the whole world walks away.**
You're the God who stands with wide open arms,
And you tell me nothing I have ever done **could separate my heart from the God who stays.***



For He Himself is our Peace. (Ephesians 2: 14)