

From The Pastor's Study

Why Pray?

Are you bored yet? Is being restricted as to what you can do and where you can go starting to really drag you down? Have you watched all the old movies you can find, is Savannah Guthrie's voice starting to sound like fingernails on a chalk board? Are you tired of the president, the governor of Virginia, and even the governor of North Carolina interrupting television programs just to basically repeat what they said the day before.

Or are you hanging on every news cast, every post on the web? Are you confused by all you hear; so much counters what someone else says. There are a lot of people who are weather addicts who watch the weather channel for hours, that seems to have been replaced by COVID 19.

Anyone who has been through a hurricane can understand the addiction to the weather station. We watch, looking for the track the storm is going to take so we know what the next move is, where will we go or will we hunker down in place?

I have been through a number of hurricanes. For me I guess 1970, hurricane Celia, was the scariest. I was stationed in Corpus Christi with a training command and we had to get as many of our 60 aircraft out of harms way. I had decided we would ride out the storm. For four days before the storm hit I was watching the storm track every moment. It was just a category 3 storm, I wasn't worried and volunteered to help get things ready for the storm. I left my wife and two children at home in base housing that morning and told her if they make them move to cover I would find them.

While I was at the hanger we received word the storm was up to a category 4 and was still building. It eventually reached a category 5. I got to the shelter just minutes before the winds reached 75mph and watched the storm build. The winds got so bad that we watched as a dumpster was lifted and set right on top of a VW station wagon. When the storm had finally passed we went out and I was floored by the level of damage but unlike 17 other people I was still breathing.

As I said, I have been through a number of storms, even man made storms like Vietnam and I am still around to tell the tales. Now we are in the middle of another storm called COVID 19 resulting in a tremendous taking of lives, but it is another of life's storms. Unlike Hurricane Celia we didn't have a lot of time or any way to know the path it was going to take and precautions in advance to avoid the attack.

This virus is scary. It is something our country hasn't really faced in the past and we don't know how we are going to deal with. We are depending on the government to pull us out of this mess and the government is hardly qualified to manage the delivery of mail. We are depending on a bunch of self-righteous politicians to make us safe, that is dangerous. Then there are the protesters who want to open everything back up regardless.

There has to be a better way to manage the issue of the corona virus other than depending on agenda filled narcissists. The virus was created by humans but there is no way humans will defeat it before many more lives are lost, not without help. We need to talk to the one who created the universe and we need to do it loud, we need to do it in numbers and we need to *know* the answer will be what we ask; ⁷ *If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*” – **John 15:5-7 (ESV)**

If we come to God in prayer, He has promised to answer, He made a promise, does the God of the universe make promises He plans not to keep? *“If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”* – **Luke 17:6 (ESV)**

You see, it seems simple but science tells us that things like that just won't happen, it is impossible, and we believe it because we haven't seen it and science says so. Why would Jesus tell His disciples this if it was just a bunch of words, would they continue to follow Him if He was telling anything but the absolute truth? Oh, sure people are praying but do they believe that God is going to clean up our mess, they must be fully invested in prayer, believing what they are asking will happen.

Here is my challenge to anyone who reads this: First, ask God to fill you with the power to believe, to take away all doubt, to give you the power to move mountains. Admit you haven't recognized you have had that kind of power but you want God to erase any doubt. Second, “enter your closet”, with no distractions, spend a few moments clearing your mind of all distractions and doubt, confess your sins so there is no distraction there, then visualize what you want God to do, protect us from this virus, to relieve us of this pandemic, to take it away. Do this a number of times each day and keep it up believing it will happen and don't stop.

Remember that little children's song, “Jesus Loves Me” if Jesus loves us He would never ignore our prayer. Please, don't ignore this. I believe when God's people pray and when people return to Him, He will set us free. God isn't asking us to prove ourselves, He wants His people to do what He has taught us.