

“His Faithfulness will be a Protective Shield”

Psalm 91

The Coronavirus, known as COVID-19, has created a panic in our nation, causing many venues to be closed, including schools, churches, the NBA and baseball games, the Masters, and even Disney Land and Disney World. The Stock Market has been erratic, having the worst day on March 12, 2020 since 1987. Our President has even declared a national emergency because of it. The virus attacks the respiratory system and can be fatal to the elderly or those with underlying health conditions. How does the Christian community respond to this crisis? As a follower of Christ, what do I do during this emergency?

1. Trust in God and His care (91:1-8)

“I will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’ He Himself will deliver you from the hunter’s net, from the destructive plague. He will cover you with His feathers; you will take refuge under His wings. His faithfulness will be a protective shield. You will not fear the terror of the night, the arrow that flies by day, the plague that stalks in darkness, or the pestilence that ravages at noon. Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, the pestilence will not reach you.”

- The longer you live, the more crises you will face or experience. There have always been natural disasters, diseases, sicknesses, and wars. Though

this generation faces different crises than previous generations, there are crises nonetheless. Jesus said: *“You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world”* (John 16:33b). He was saying, in your suffering, in your trouble, trust in Me. I have overcome the world. God said about the psalmist: *“I will be with him in trouble”* (v. 15a). Not “may be” or “might be” or “possibly,” but *“will be.”*

- David, who faced disease, war, loss, and rebellion said: *“When I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not fear”* (Psalm 56:3-4). Throughout David’s life, there was one crisis after another. But David turned to God when he was overwhelmed by his circumstances. Because he trusted in God, he was delivered from his fear and circumstances.
- When Joshua was grieving the death of Moses, and facing a formidable enemy, God said: *“Haven’t I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”* (Joshua 1:9). God was true to His Word—He was with Joshua, and Joshua was successful. The writer of Psalm 91 described God as a fortress, a refuge, a shield, a mother hen, and an angel. Are you fearful? Are you afraid? Trust in God and His care. He will be your refuge, your shield, your fortress.

2. Honor God with your life (91:9-10, 14)

“Because you have made the Lord—my refuge, the Most High—your dwelling place, no harm will come to you; no plague will come near your tent.”

“Because he is lovingly devoted to Me, I will deliver him; I will protect him because he knows My name.”

- No matter what the circumstances of your life, honor God. He is deserving of your worship, your praise, your adoration, and your love. When you honor God with your life by worshiping Him and obeying Him, He is committed to you. He will deliver you from trouble and protect you from harm.
- The psalmist said: ***“Praise the Lord, all nations! Glorify Him, all peoples! For His faithful love to us is great; the Lord’s faithfulness endures forever. Hallelujah!”*** (Psalm 117). God is a faithful God, a faithful Father. He will help you, and He will deliver you from your trouble. Honor Him with your words and actions.
- David said: ***“I will thank the Lord with all my heart; I will declare all Your wonderful works. The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble”*** (Psalm 9:1, 9). David honored God, and God protected David. When you honor God, He will honor you. He will come through for you. Don’t live in fear. Don’t be a coward. Trust in God, and honor Him with your life.

Christian author, professor, and apologist of the faith, C.S. Lewis said about Christians living in the atomic age, which can be applied to the Coronavirus: “This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by the atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.” (*Present Concerns: Journalistic Essays*, 1948). Don’t cower in fear, but trust in God and honor Him with your life.