



*For God has not
given us a spirit of fear,
but of power and
of love and
of a sound mind.*

(2 Tim 1:7)

FEAR
VS
FAITH

And when He got into the boat, His disciples followed him. A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but He was asleep. And they went and woke Him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" (Matthew 8:23-27)

GOD IS NEVER SURPRISED BY OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

Did they not know who it was who got into the boat with them that day? The one who created the Oceans, the currents, the wind and waves was in that little ship with them that day

- 1.The ship is not going down with the Creator on board
- 2.The storm does not distress Jesus
- 3.No matter how earth shattering, our problems do not cause our God to fear.
- 4."O you of little faith"
- 5.Look what happened. They all stayed in the boat... they all continued the journey and they all reached the other side.
- 6.The circumstances of the world around us should not affect our faith in God, and His ability cause us to reach the intention He has for our lives.



So how do we plan for our immediate future?

Our **reactionary response** gives credit to the “enemy”

- ✿ It's a trap to not follow good precautionary measures
- ✿ Whether we have service in a building or not has nothing to do with our faith... It's just good common sense at this stage
- ✿ We end up looking like fools if people become sick with this virus from our centre or church
- ✿ We lose our level of influence
- ✿ Common sense
- ✿ Social distancing is the best defence against any pandemic
- ✿ Not overloading our healthcare system than it is catching COVID-19

GOD IS NEVER SURPRISED BY OUR CIRCUMSTANCES!

- ✿ He wasn't surprised by the persecution of the early church
- ✿ He wasn't surprised by world wars
- ✿ He wasn't surprised by the Plague, Measles, Mumps, Smallpox, SARS, Swine flu or Covid-19
- ✿ Our God hasn't lost control, and neither should we

Coronavirus - Fear is

- ✿ Paralysing
- ✿ Causes us to do very reactionary actions
- ✿ Creates confusion

A Sound mind is the opposite of Fear. **2 Timothy 1:7**

Mary, Mother of Sorrows Pray for us!



O **Mary**, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen! (Pope Francis)

So how do we plan for our immediate future?

- *Utilise this time for:*
- Family time & Rest
- Working on the projects we keep putting off
- **SOW** into our...
- Family & Career
- Home & Ministry
- Let our church move outside the 4 walls that have been restricting our growth anyway...



GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL

- ♣ Promote online giving & online attendance, send out a worship & a prayer list
- ♣ Promote community & family participation, send a daily uplifting Facebook or whats app update
- ♣ Become a resource for your members & for people who have no one to turn to
- ♣ Hope is always a great message to preach, and our lifestyle, actions, and words are the best message the world will ever see. Without any fault of our own we have to create a new normal.

God is still in control

- He has not forgotten His people
- His plan for this world is still to draw the hearts of all people to Him
- Let's not allow this time to be a time of decrease, let's allow it to be a time of increase
- People are praying around this world like they never have before. Let's believe that God is going to answer our prayers, heal our land and rescue the perishing

”And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Rom 8:28)