

Responding to the Coronavirus: When the World Is Shaken It's Easy for Fear to Spread

How do we the church deal with all of this?

How do we bring the Good News to the community of Christ and the world?

Three levels of truth:

1. I **think** – my opinion.
2. I **feel** – my feelings.
3. What does God **say**?

Philippians 4:8

"Finally, brothers and sisters whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. What ever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace with be with you."

Romans 12:2

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's perfect will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."

We are not of this world. As Christians we are not to live in fear. Not to be afraid.

1. We are empowered not to live by fear but to live by faith.

John 14:1

Do not let your hearts be troubled Trust in God; trust also in Me."

John 14:27

*"Peace I leave with you; My peace "I give to you. I **do not** give to you as the world gives. **Do not** let your hearts be troubled and **do not** be afraid."*

John 14:27 (The New Living Translation)

Jesus said, "I am leaving you with a gift – the peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."

The gift is peace of mind and heart.

2 Timothy 1:7

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."

"For we live by faith, not by sight."

2 Corinthians 5:7

2. We are empowered not to be selfish but called to be sacrificial.

Romans 12:1

"Therefore brothers and sisters in Christ, I urge you in view of God's mercies, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship."

Philippians 2:3

"Don't be selfish, don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves." "Don't look out only for your own interest, but take an interest in others, too."

We are enlightened to help our neighbor – to be there for them.

Acts 2:44-45

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had a need."

Acts 2:46

"Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."

Acts 2:46-47

"with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

3. We are empowered not to hide the light but to shine the light.

Matthew 5:14-15

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

Mt. Olive here is our calling:

Matthew 5:16

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Ephesians 6:12

We're in a battle but our battle is not against people, flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

2 Corinthians 4:7

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us."

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed."