

Devotions for a Coronavirus Stay Home #2 – Pastor Gary

So I'll be honest with you up front, I'm a planner. I love to have a plan. No matter what the issue is, I prefer to think it through and arrive at a few steps of action that will bring me to the desired outcome. This trait has served me well on most occasions. God knows me and has worked through (maybe even in spite of) me. Looking back, there have been times much like these current days that no reliable plan is coming to me. The circumstances are way beyond my abilities to grasp and control. I find myself looking deep inside and asking the question, "Where do I place my trust?" It's a great question.

The world presents many options: other people, those in authority over me, money, influence, etc. While there may be a role for all of these options to play, we know that ultimately the world fails, falls short, is unreliable. There is only One who is always loving, capable and trustworthy. The psalmist puts it this way:

Psalm 118: 1-9

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

² Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."

³ Let the house of Aaron say: "His love endures forever."

⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say: "His love endures forever."

⁵ When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD;
he brought me into a spacious place.

⁶ The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?

⁷ The LORD is with me; he is my helper.
I look in triumph on my enemies.

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in humans.

⁹ It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes.

Another Psalm puts it into different words and images:

Psalm 20:7

⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

We always place our ultimate trust in our God, the one true God, Maker of heaven and of earth. He loves us with an everlasting love, stands strong on our behalf and **will** bring us through. Let's enjoy His "spacious place" even when we are cooped up in our homes. He is our refuge from the raging storm. Rest in Him today.

Some questions and actions to consider:

1. Have you seen firsthand God's faithfulness toward you in the past? Recall this truth and praise Him for what He has done.
2. What does it look like to trust Him now in these days before you know the outcome? What can we do to live like this today?
3. How can I encourage someone else to live "trusting and resting in the name of the Lord our God?"