

**Joyful in Hope – Day Nine, March 27, 2020, (thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)**

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Romans 12:9

**Greetings, Heritage Family,**

Today, I want to share something with you that I hope will help you get a handle on dealing with all the news coming your way concerning the coronavirus, the situation in our communities, and in the world, and help us to stay connected to the One who knows our hearts. Our daughter-in-law, Jen posted this on a daily Facebook video she has begun, and she explains that it was presented to her in a Bible Study, or which she's a part.

- Peace and Health. Pete

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**A Liturgy For Those Flooded With Too Much Information by DOUGLAS MCKELVEY**

In a world so wired and interconnected, our anxious hearts are pummeled by an endless barrage of troubling news. We are daily aware of more grief, O Lord, than we can rightly consider, of more suffering and scandal than we can respond to, of more hostility, hatred, horror, and injustice than we can engage with compassion.

But you, O Jesus, are not disquieted by such news of cruelty and terror and war. You are neither anxious nor overwhelmed. You carried the full weight of the suffering of a broken world when you hung upon the cross, and you carry it still.

When the cacophony of universal distress unsettles us, remind us that we are but small and finite creatures, never designed to carry the vast abstractions of great burdens, for our arms are too short and our strength is too small. Justice and mercy, healing and redemption, are your great labors.

And yes, it is your good pleasure to accomplish such works through your people, but you have never asked any one of us to undertake more than your grace will enable us to fulfill.

Guard us then from shutting down our empathy or walling off our hearts because of the glut of un-actionable misery that floods our awareness. You have many children in many places around this globe. Move each of our hearts to compassionately respond to those needs that intersect our actual lives, that in all places your body might be actively addressing the pain and brokenness of this world, each of us liberated and empowered by your Spirit to fulfill the small part of your redemptive work assigned to us.

Give us discernment in the face of troubling news reports. Give us discernment to know when to pray, when to speak out, when to act, and when to simply shut off our screens and our devices, and to sit quietly in your presence, casting the burdens of this world upon the strong shoulders of the one who alone is able to bear them up. Amen.

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***THE VOICE OF THE LORD IS OVER THE WATERS; THE GOD OF GLORY THUNDERS,  
THE LORD, OVER MANY WATERS. THE VOICE OF THE LORD IS POWERFUL;  
THE VOICE OF THE LORD IS FULL OF MAJESTY. Psalm 29:3–4***

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**Prayers, please!**

1. I've got a few prayer updates today. The first one is a praise, and keep praying. Percy Pasquin finally received word that his Covid 19 test came back NEGATIVE! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! The family is finally able to end their quarantine and now simply shelter in place. Terri is asking that you continue to pray for Percy. He went right back to work today at Henry Ford Hospital, and he is stationed at the Front Entrance to receive and direct new patients. Please pray that he does not get exposed.

2. Prayers for Marvel's brother, William. We have been praying for William, as he continues to battle cancer. On Wednesday night, William and his wife lost their home to a fire. Marvel says they are safe and ok, but our hearts are breaking for them. I asked Marvel to let us know what they need. Your prayers are much appreciated.

3. Debby Gross is asking for prayers for her mom, JoAnn Jerome. JoAnn was taken to the hospital Wednesday with dehydration and low blood pressure. Debbie cannot visit, and the hospital has stopped answering the phones because they are overwhelmed. Pray that she doesn't get the virus and that she'll be able to return to American House, where she is living now.

3. Today, let's offer some very special prayers for all the Doctors and Nurses and Caregivers and EMTs, and everyone else who is on the frontlines of battling this virus. I'm sure we all know someone personally, whether a friend or family member or neighbor, who is putting their health and life at risk every time they go to work. They are truly special people. Lord, we beg you to protect them.