

**Joyful in Hope – Day Fifteen, April 3, 2020  
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)**

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”  
Romans 12:9

**What a glorious day!**

Now, that's what I'm talkin' about. Sunny Skies. Warmer Temperatures. No Wind. Did you find yourself singing?  
*“This is the day that the Lord has made. I will be glad and rejoice in it?”*

For a little while, all the bad stuff going on in the world, while perhaps not forgotten, has at least been contained by the knowledge that our LORD reigns, that there are good days ahead, that we have been assured victory, and that the coronavirus will not have the final word for 2020. Remind yourself of that every day!

Janine and I went for a long walk this evening (that's why this is so late getting to you), and we couldn't help but notice how friendly everyone was, even while maintaining the socially appropriate six feet distance. We miss contact, don't we? We miss interaction and just checking up on each other. So, I encourage you to check up on someone!

Bill Withers died today. He wrote “Lean on Me”, perhaps our favorite folk/soul song of all time. And as the Nightly News put it, the song is “an important and timely reminder of what we ought to be telling each other right now.”

Go ahead, sing it!

*Sometimes in our lives we all have pain, we all have sorrow  
But if we are wise, we know that there's always tomorrow*

*Lean on me, when you're not strong, and I'll be your friend. I'll help you carry on  
For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need, Somebody to lean on*

*Please swallow your pride, if I have things you need to borrow  
For no one can fill those of your needs, that you won't let show*

*You just call on me brother, when you need a hand,  
We all need somebody to lean on  
I just might have a problem that you'll understand,  
We all need somebody to lean on*

Now, find some way to be the person someone in need can lean on.

Ok, here's your challenge for this week. Tomorrow evening at 7 PM, we are encouraging everyone at Heritage to go out on your front porch, turn toward your neighbor, your street, your community, your world, and share Paul's benediction from 2 Corinthians 13:14. I mean, why should we be the only ones blessed by Paul's words, right? You can shout it or say it softly. And after you're done, offer a prayer for healing and recovery for our entire world.

***May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.***

God bless and keep you all.

Peace and Health,  
Pete