

**Joyful in Hope – Day Sixteen, April 4, 2020  
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)**

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

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The other day, I was reading about Gideon, whom God had called to be Judge over Israel. Israel had turned their back on God, and so for seven years, the Midianites had been running roughshod over Israel. When Gideon got the call to lead Israel and defeat the enemy, he was hiding. When God told him that he had chosen Gideon, he complained that he was the weakest of the weakest. When God told Gideon to go out and defeat their attackers, Gideon challenged God to give him a sign that he really was with them. Through all that, God kept telling Gideon, “Don’t be afraid, I will be with you.” I believe God is telling us that today.

There are some scary. bad things going on right now, and I do not want to minimize that. But scary, bad things have been going on in our world for a very long time. And God has always been in control, and he will see us all (and by all, I mean his entire creation) through this. So please, continue to do what you should be doing to help slow and eventually stop the virus from spreading. Don’t let fear get the best of you. Encourage others who might be having difficulty, or who are gripped by fear. Pray for first responders and hospital staff, who are risking their lives every day.

**“Don’t be afraid, I will be with you.”  
“There is no fear in love, because perfect love expels all fear.”**

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**Prayers Please**

Here are a couple of additions to your prayer list. First, prayers for Duane Kimmel. He and Lisa are up north, and earlier this week, he suffered another kidney stone attack, and had to go to the hospital in Sault Ste. Marie. He is back at the cabin now, and doing better.

Dakota and Skye are asking for prayers that their anticipated move to Germany with the Army next year will not be impacted by the current coronavirus restrictions.

Remember to **join us on your front porch** this evening at 7 PM, as together with one voice, we offer a blessing and a prayer for our neighbors, our communities, our world.

***2 Corinthians 13:14***

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