

Joyful in Hope – 45 – May 8, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)
“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
Romans 12:12

Last chance to share your favorite “MOM” photo.
Text me or email me with a picture of Mom, Grandma, Great Grandma, or anyone else who falls into that category. I need them by day’s end.
Thanks!

Janine and I are friends with a couple who live in Traverse City – Tom and Amy Gordon. We’ve known Amy since college days at Oklahoma Christian. She is a woman of God, and she and Tom truly have servant hearts. I want to share something that Amy posted on her Facebook page today with you.
Blessings.
- Pete

This morning I humbly and desperately came to the Lord, seeking His peace, His lead as the COVID 19 continues to impact our world. The passage I was reading was Psalms 103, “Praise the Lord, Oh my soul--all my inmost being; praise His Holy name.” I came seeking to turn a heavy heart of concern to a heart of praise. As I looked up, I saw snow falling from the sky. Wind, snow fiercely falling down. I immediately cried out, “NO! No more winter!”

Then I thought of the parallels in my life at this time. Winter, I would like it to be done--no more. Can I control that? No! It is cold--it is restricting--it is out of my control! Yet, I am inside my home with a heater, hot tea, and warm clothes. The winter struggle does not affect me in a big way. However, I think of others: the homeless, postal workers, outside workers that are affected in a different and, for some, a bigger way. What is my part in this mini-winter storm?

As I watch the snow blow across the yard, I think of COVID 19. It continues to affect our lives as the days go by and just like one more winter blast, we are told to extend our stay home order once again. I am ready to shout, “No” --just as I did with the snow. I feel restricted and not in control and yet, it is here in our world. People are dying--maybe not as many where I am, but it is real. So, what can I do? What can I control? I think of what I do during a winter storm. . .

I Praise God for His sovereign will in my life.

I Praise Him for the beauty the white covering brings upon the earth.

I bundle up and go out in the winter and scoop the walk, sometimes for others.

I just stay inside and pray.

I am available for the needs around me.

Today, as I gear up for more days of “Stay Home, Stay Safe,” I too can feel cold like the winter storm and out of control, but I am seeking to sit on my Father’s lap and listen to His heart beat to know what I can do.

I can Praise God for His Peace; His love; His Sovereign will in all things.

I can cry to Him as I share in the loss of lives that my friends have had because of COVID 19.

I can pray for those doctors and nurses that work long hours and in hard conditions.

I can pray for the countries in the world that do not have any structure to help them at this time and donate money for their needs.

I can call the isolated ones at home.

I can ask others, “How can I help you?”

I can sing praises.

I can write cards, send texts, or videos.

I can live each moment ready to receive what God is showing me during this time with an open heart.

I can give financially to those that I know who are in need.

I can keep my mind on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy.

I realize I am in my home with my circumstances, but that is where I am. Therefore, I can speak for myself about what I can do. God help me to be who I can be for Him, where I am and with Him.

As I finish writing, the snow has stopped--the sun is out. I know, too, that the same thing will be true for this time. It will not last forever--it too shall come to pass. My prayer is that through this time, my heart has been open to what God is doing in me and through me as I focus on Him.

“I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.”