

TEXT: Hebrews 10:35-39 AMP

*“Do not, therefore, fling away your [fearless] confidence, for it has a glorious and great reward. For you have need of patient endurance [to bear up under difficult circumstances without compromising], so that when you have carried out the will of God, you may receive and enjoy to the full what is promised. **FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE [the one justified by faith] SHALL LIVE BY FAITH [respecting man’s relationship to God and trusting Him]; AND IF HE DRAWS BACK [shrinking in fear], MY SOUL HAS NO DELIGHT IN HIM.** But our way is not that of those who shrink back to destruction, but [we are] of those who believe [relying on God through faith in Jesus Christ, the Messiah] and by this confident faith preserve the soul.”*

INTRO: The decision to not hold services at our physical location was an extremely difficult one for me. It felt as though two strong convictions of mine were pulling against each other. On one hand my conviction about the power of God’s people assembling together under his name to worship. On the other hand my conviction as a leader to look out for the safety and well-being of others. After prayer consulting with other leaders and officials I felt like this was the best decision given the set of circumstances that we are now facing. I’m aware that people have many different thoughts and opinions concerning which is the best way to proceed. As your pastor I’m asking you to not let division distract us but rather let’s unite in faith and rally around the name of the Lord for it is a strong tower and those that run into it are safe.

I) Stay Confident

- Times of uncertainty have a way of eating away at our confidence
- When this happens our minds can begin to run in all kinds of directions and we begin to lose our sense of stability
- Our heart becomes vulnerable to doubt
- Remember Your confidence has a reward!
- During this season Let us hold tight to our confidence in the faithfulness of God

II) You Need Endurance

- This is what enables you to hold it together in difficulty
- As schedules change and adjustments are made with jobs, children etc. I’m praying that God will increase your endurance
- Through endurance we avoid compromise and giving up

III) Two Kinds of People: Those who are moved by Faith and those who are moved by Fear

- *“The only thing that we have to fear is fear itself” - Franklin D. Roosevelt
1933 Inaugural speech facing the Great Depression*
 - Fear shrinks or diminishes you and causes you to begin to retreat in life
 - Faith enlarges and propels you forward in life
 - Fear depletes you but faith fills you!
- a. When crisis hits we must learn to Respond instead of React
- Reaction is motivated by fear
 - Response is motivated by faith
 - The difference - when you respond you prepare to take action but when you react you just take action!

- When we react we do things that make no sense
- **In the midst of this crisis let's bring faith to this challenge. Let's bring faith to our families, neighborhoods, workplaces and all throughout this region.**
I believe Faith is CONTAGIOUS!!!
- *"And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak," II Corinthians 4:13 NKJV*

IV) Preserve Your Soul

In the midst of this crisis you must protect your soul

- Be careful how much information and negative news you are ingesting
- Let's be informed but not obsessed, alert but not alarmed
- Anxiety: Distress or uneasiness of mind caused by fear of danger
- *"Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow's but only empties today of it's strength!"*
– Charles Spurgeon

Philippians 4:4-8 AMP

"Rejoice in the Lord always [delight, take pleasure in Him]; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit [your graciousness, unselfishness, mercy, tolerance, and patience] be known to all people. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours]. Finally, believers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable and worthy of respect, whatever is right and confirmed by God's word, whatever is pure and wholesome, whatever is lovely and brings peace, whatever is admirable and of good repute; if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think continually on these things [center your mind on them, and implant them in your heart]."

Seven Ways To Protect Your Soul

III John 1:2 NKJV

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."

1. Stay Joyful
2. Be Patient With Others
3. Reject Anxiety
4. Prioritize Prayer
5. Continually Give Thanks
6. Remember that God is our Source
7. Keep Your Mind Focused

The promise is that HIS PEACE will PROTECT us

His peace defends our heart and mind from the attack of the enemy