

# A CALL TO PRAYER

Restoration Family,

Take some time to read each passage & corresponding commentary one at a time. As you do, take a few minutes (per passage) & pray using both the Scripture & the note as your guide.

## **Psalm 46:10**

“Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!”

Stop. Take a breath. When the world is raging and striving, be still. Acknowledge that God’s sovereignty and rule is still in full effect. God will be exalted and glorified even in these tumultuous times.

## **Philippians 4:4-7**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & your minds in Christ Jesus.

There should be a marked difference between how the Christian community responds to crises and how the world as a whole responds. We must rejoice in the midst of uncertainty, fear, and even uncertainty. We must give evidence of where our hope lies. We must be reasonable! And we must combat anxiety with a deep and Gospel-rooted trust in the promises of God, allowing God’s peace to flood our hearts and minds.

## **Psalm 34:4**

I sought the Lord, and he answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.

Perhaps this needs little commentary! Fear and trepidation are running rampant in many right now. Seek the Lord. He WILL answer. he WILL deliver. Ultimately, he has delivered us from the power of sin and death through Christ.

## **Proverbs 3:5-6**

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
6 In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

Right now, everyone is on information overload. You’ve read the articles. You’ve seen the graphs and charts. You’ve read the polarizing extremes of doomsday predictions and goofy memes making light of the virus. Yes, we need wisdom. But we need to trust in the Lord. Trust that he will guide and direct you through this.

**John 14:27**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Peace comes from the Lord. As our security and comfort are shaken, it's a reminder that peace cannot be found "out there". It's found "in Him." If your heart is troubled right now, ask yourself this question: Are you looking to find *shalom* from the world? John's Gospel would remind us that real peace is found only in Christ.

**1 Peter 5:6-8**

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Right now, as we cast our anxiety and cares on God, we must cling to his presence, his nearness, and his goodness. In a time when some are operating from a place of paranoia and pandemonium, Christ-followers must be marked by their sober-mindedness. Also, don't lose sight of the reality of spiritual warfare - that Satan would love nothing better than to use this crisis to drive us away from God, deceive us, and ultimately destroy us.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Now, more than ever, God's Church must rise up and comfort those in affliction and distress. We cannot be self-absorbed or selfish - we must be selfless and sacrificial. In the Gospel, we have an endless reservoir of mercy, hope, and comfort. We must draw from this reservoir of grace and display the gracious character of Christ by moving toward others right now. How is God calling you to show care and comfort? How is God calling you to serve?

**Romans 1:16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Finally, let us not be slack in praying and stepping into the plethora of gospel opportunities that abound in times such as these. As talk of fear, disease, and death are common place, may we as God's people be quick to speak of the hope, wholeness, and life we have in Christ! Church, pray for God to use this for his glory to draw many to Jesus.

