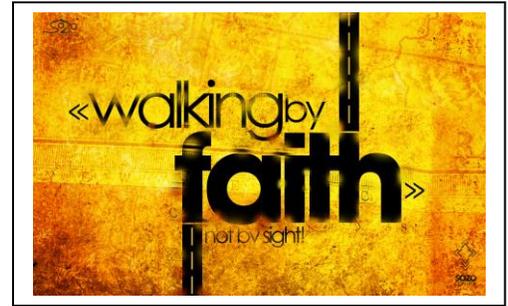


SPECIAL ALL CHURCH
EDITION:
'The Prayer 20/20 Impact'
March 29, 2020



Dear Praying Friends, and Partners In Prayer Team, and Whole Church Family,

“For we live [walk] by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 (NKJV)

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:5-6 (NIV)

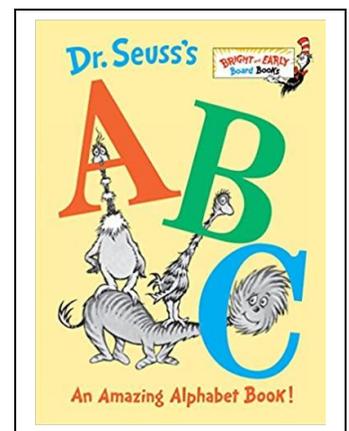
Where have we ever gotten the idea that *“Walking by faith not by sight”* was ever going to be easy? I want you just for a moment to remember our church impact verse for 2020: *“For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)*. I know that some of you have shared with me that this was such an easy verse to memorize, yet have you noticed that during our area shutdowns because of the Covid-19 how hard it is to live out this verse? Some verses are easy to say, easy to memorize, and easy to remember, but they are very hard or even “hardly” lived out. What does it mean to walk by faith and not by sight? It means that the direction of our lives as a Christ-follower is a daily direction and choosing of step-like actions always done by faith, and not counting on or relying on the things which we see every day. It means being believers that march to a different drum beat, that count on an unseen yet Powerful Mighty Awesome Wonderworking God, who is taking us to eternity with Him, and counting every decision we make to be faith and Spirit led. This week we have discovered how hard it is to walk by our faith, especially when we’ve lost our jobs, and can’t get out and about. Our tendency is to focus inward and feel sorry for ourselves. Don’t! Get our eyes off ourselves and get them on Jesus. Can we do that? “But,” we may say, “That is hard!” Yes, but it is so important if we are going to “walk by faith,” and not be like everyone else out there right now.

I must admit that when I always looked to Hebrews 1:1 for a definition of “faith” that I often felt more perplexed by the explanation of most modern translations: *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (New King James)*. What really helped me to understand faith in this definition was the New Living Translation of Hebrews 11:1 *“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.”* What that means is, by faith we know God promises things to be true and when we hope

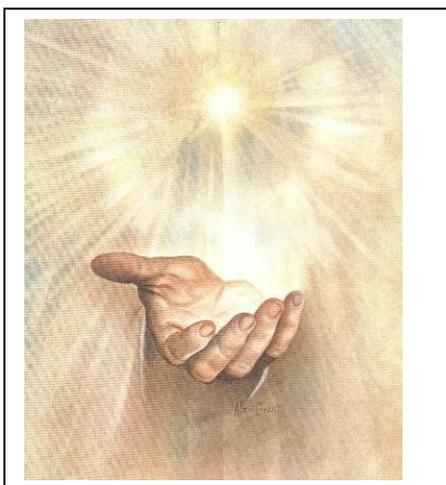
for them, we know that it is more real to believe in it than the cement sidewalk on which we stand. And when we believe with this kind of faith, that because God made that reality a promise, it will happen and all that we hope for from Him is always coming true, no matter what we see or don't see and experience. Faith is an active working out of God's Word. Just as many are afraid and trying to avoid the coronavirus germs, they are certain that the danger and threat is real and that they can get it if they don't act accordingly and wash their hands. So, by faith we believe in God, and we have a hope in Jesus that is real.

This last week I was reading through Psalm 119 for my devotions. What amazes me is that this longest Psalm in the whole Bible was written in Hebrew mnemonics so it could be easily learned and memorized. I can hardly believe one could memorize this whole Psalm! But it was written for that intended purpose. Every eight verses are alliterated and start with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. So, it is easy to memorize the first eight verses if you remember the "Hebrew" letter "a" (aelph) starts every phrase of every verse.

In those ancient days of yore, I would read Dr. Suss's *Alphabet Book* to my kids in their preschool years, and still remember it even after 25 years. Why? Because we learned the book by reading and rhyming it over and over: "Big 'A', little 'a' what begins with 'A'? Aunt Annie's alligator... a, a, a."



Well, as I was reading my devotions in Psalm 119, I observed the alphabetical and rhyming section of verses 73-80. Each letter in this section begins with the Hebrew letter 'yodh' which is similar to our English 'y' with just a bit of "soft-th". Or for someone like my son Greg, it's the "Star Wars Yoda" letter. So, as I was reading verse 73 this is what caught my attention: "*Your hands have made and fashioned me [O Yahweh], give me understanding that I may learn your*



commandments" (ESV). The verse starts with the word for "hands" which is "yad." "So," I asked myself, "why not just look up some things about this Hebrew word?" And I found that the word "hands" in this passage could be translated as "the one whose hands are open, indicating power, direction, and means." It suddenly hit me- that is our God! That is exactly who He is! He is the One whose "invisible hands" are unseen by us, but whose hands are open and active. He is the Sovereign, caring, and compassionate One whose hands are open right now. They are open to our prayers. He is the One who opens His hand and points out the ways and directions we take. He is the One who created us and weaves the details of our

lives, as Steve Marks shares about a master basket weaver in his latest prayer letter. (We will attach it to our prayer sheet). Our God of open hands is the power behind making us and animating us and moving us like pieces on a chess board. He is the One who gives us the means to live and breathe and act out by faith everything in our lives. He is the God of open hands. So, if He is the open-handed One moving and directing and animating us through the Holy Spirit, then imagine that prayer is the most important thing we can do with our hands during these weeks of shut-down because of the virus. If we at Palisades Community Bible Church are an “upper-room praying church”, then we should be known by faith that our prayers are working as God’s invisible hands. Our prayers are powerful and effective, even if the world can’t see it (James 1:17). When we pray, it’s like unleashing “atomic-missiles” all around us! Our prayers are the greatest and most effective moving force right now, not the spreading of the coronavirus! And, loved ones if we believe this to be true, are we making use of prayer?

My wife has shown me tons of videos that are out on Facebook about washing our hands. Who would ever think how important this simple exercise could really be? Some videos even show, by using dye, what our hand washing really looks like. I remember the days when every time I entered the house, mom would yell, “Did you wash your hands?” I would run to the sink, slip my hands over the bar of Ivory soap, and just let the water fall over my hands, then hastily dry them on the towel, which really removed most of the soil and dirt leaving a ring. I didn’t really care how clean my hands were, and I was fooling myself with what I thought was “washing my hands.”



So, as we are reminded of how important proper hand washing really is, and using wipes on everything we touch, and singing songs over our hand washing to make sure the amount of time we wash is effective, I couldn’t help but ask myself, “This really is a lesson in prayer!” Are we praying so effectively, believingly, and honestly that our infectious, wonderful God of Glory, and Christ’s powerful Gospel, and the working of the Holy Spirit are spreading out to infect hearts?” The power of God’s hands rests in His Sovereign power. His hands are open to give us direction through His Word. Our means to infect people with the Gospel of Christ Jesus is through contacting others and praying. Just looking at my hands makes me want to remind each of us, “Are we washing our hands in prayer? Are we giving them a thorough prayer washing?”

I want to point us to something that is really helpful during this “shut-down”. Instead of watching videos about outbreak and sci-fi “flu-maggon”, look up Prayercast.com. It is a site that where we’ve use to play various prayers from during services. You can watch prayer videos for every country around the world. If you also go to the “special tab” there is a prayer for all those infected

with “coronavirus”. I am going to try to get the prayer on our church web page, and Facebook. Go and watch that prayer if you are able. Lift this prayer up! God’s hands are working and moving and healing!

This week we heard from Joel Stewart in Cambodia. He shared how the people at the Community for Changed Hearts are forbidden by government to gather for church, and so a handful of believers stood ten feet apart last Sunday, outside and around their church building, and shouted aloud ten minutes of prayers! He was incredibly moved by their faith!

We got word that the Mahers are asking prayer for Teen Missions. There is serious talk of closing all summer mission teams out of the country. Pray as this totally derails their summer missions program. They will not be able to get back to Cameroon, Africa.

We also heard incredible answers to prayer. Even though our hearts are discouraged because the Marks are locked down and can’t return from Thailand, I got word that God miraculously opened the door for our missionaries, the Vosters, who returned to Bucks County just this week. They are currently in a 14 day quarantine at their parents’ home in Warminster.

This week, the Borios’ left us, and already moved down to Kathy’s parents in Florida. We had several young men help them move and pack, and the Elders were able to give a love gift to Nick and Kathy and I was able to pray them off.

Another answered prayer this week was Aline and Oliver are doing fine in San Paulo, Brazil. They are safe at her parents’ home finishing the 14 days quarantine. We were able to catch up with Aline and Oliver by Facetime and talk. It was so heartwarming to sit and visit that way. Afterwards, Lori was looking at pictures of Oliver’s first year and reminiscing, and I happened to say, “You know, if God sat in heaven every day, I bet that is just how God views each one of us. Since God is our heavenly daddy, I bet He can look down on our lives, love us to pieces, and as He sits in Glory, He can look through the stages of our growing lives with a wave of His hand while He has been caring for us the whole time!” I think that is a great lesson of love each of us should remember when we call out in prayer... that is how God receives us.

What are you, loved ones, doing with your hands? Don’t underestimate the power of “unseen praying hands!” Prayer is the working by faith of God’s people, that He is infecting souls for Christ! Prayer is the number one spiritual action that is incredibly effective right now, even when we don’t see it. Prayer is the best way for you and me to “*walk by faith and not by sight*”. So here are my three top prayer washing requests for us:

1. Pray for our own 611 corridor right now, for the Holy Spirit to move revival. Sometime just recently, we had some friends of ours who live in

western, PA who brought their family to “Ringing Rocks.” When we saw their Facebook post, Lori contacted them and said, “Hey, if we had known we could have met; you were right in our backyard!” So we missed a wonderful opportunity for our friends to meet up with us. So, don’t miss the opportunity to pray for those around us right now! Your neighbors, your friends, your loved ones. Pray for contagious infection for Christ even while maintaining proper “social-distance!”

2. Pray for the hardness of the spiritual soil around us to be broken up.

When I mentioned “Ringing Rocks,” when was the last time you walked out in that field of immensely piled boulders? People don’t run a marathon through that field. And, I

imagine, that when the Revolutionary era pioneers came across this region of Upper Black Eddy, they didn’t just hitch a donkey to an old-fashioned plow and



trench out furrows to plant corn, did they? I love the joke about the old fellow who came upon an old cmony at the crossroads filling station. “Don’t ever advise anybody else that a bulky mule can be moved by building a fire under him,” said the cmony. “I tried it and what happened was pitiful to see.” “You mean to tell me,” exclaimed the old fellow, “that this dumb critter just stood there and let the fire burn him?” “Nope,” replied the cmony, “he just moved up six feet an’ let my wagon do the burning.” We live on hard “ringing rocks” soil here at Palisades. We can’t forget that what would be impossible for us, isn’t impossible for God. Pray God clears the iron-metallic rocks from peoples’ hearts. Pray that He digs out the souls whose lives are so piled high in wretchedness and hurt, that He removes the boulders from their lives. Our prayers are that the Holy Spirit’s dynamite blows the obstacles clear! Pray for our 611 corridor to be saved and that the power of God revives.

My mother asked me, “Corvin, what do you think about this coronavirus, is this the indication of Christ’s coming?” She said a man near her said that it was God working revival because people are doing good things. I got to thinking that if in America’s history, God worked revivals every 50 years, then we are really overdue for one. But just seeing the “good in people” doesn’t count for a spiritual revival. It is only a true spiritual revival when we see hearts and lives totally repenting and given over to Jesus Christ as Lord and personal Savior. That is true revival. Revival isn’t mankind just doing some “good things”, even though we want to see more of that. Revival is true salvation. So, back to my mother’s question, “Is this a sign of Christ’s coming?” My only answer is Romans 13:11-12, *“And do this, understanding the present time: the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber,*

because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." I can't know if this is Christ's coming, but I can know that His coming is a lot closer each day that ticks by. We need to "wake up!" Some people are not morning people, right? But we need to wake people up to what living in Christ and putting on Christ is all about.

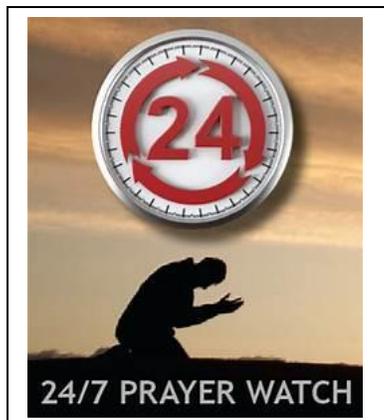
3. Lastly, pray for the hope to overflow from us. Several years ago, our church verse was Romans 15:13: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (NIV).* That word "overflow" is the ideareferenced in Psalm 23, "my cup overflows". It is when you are pouring water into a glass, and you don't stop, so it keeps spilling out all over the table. That is our prayer for you during this time, loved ones! When given the chance to interact with others, spill out and get people wet with Christian love. Paul prayed that the church would be like that in verse 5 and 6: *"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 15).* That is our prayer loved ones.

Call them our "hand-washing-prayer-challenges." So here are the three ways I need you to work on "invisible prayer" washing for our hands this week:

1. Have you ever wondered, "God, while in this Covid-19 crisis, what can I tangibly do?" If you have asked that, here is one answer we feel the Holy Spirit is leading us. We are placing on our church sign: "Even though our doors are closed, our hearts are open. Call for prayer and questions: 610-847-2637." We are planning a prayer and question line for our community to call. I am going to do a "Facebook web video" for the church web site and Facebook page that invites anyone to call us for questions and answers. We need people to man the phone. If you are willing, we will connect your home number to our phone, so that for an "eight hour slot" (9-5) you can receive those calls. We have papers and brochures for how you can take and write down prayer requests and questions. If you don't know an answer, you can just share that you are passing it on to Pastor, and he will call



back within 30 minutes time. Or you can just be used by God to pray with them. Interested? I need seven volunteers for each day of the week starting on Sunday and running each day through Easter. Contact me now! My cell: 267-221-6012 or text. We will set you up for a segment for each day through the week.



2. Sign up for an hour segment during the 24/7 prayer week at Easter week April 5th – 12th. No one has contacted me yet this week! I'm worried that we will not fill

those slots. You can email, or call my cell: 267-221-6012. We need to pray to get ready for Easter. You may be wondering, "Are we having Easter?" When will our church reopen? Our hope is that we can start services April 5th for Palm Sunday. If we can't, then our second plan is an outdoor Easter worship service on April 12th with no Sunday School, Son-rise service, or breakfast at this point. We are slowly moving forward and waiting on the Lord for indications that this will be an actual opening to gather on the day we celebrate our Savior's resurrection. We will be looking at the symbol of the fish <>< "Ichthus" and how it symbolizes that Jesus Christ is God's Son, and our Savior. We will share how we can better 'mark' our lives by showing the power and truth of the risen Savior in our world today. *"Walk by faith, not by sight!"*

3. Read the next prayer message on Nehemiah- "Can You Handle an Answered Prayer?" when it comes out Sunday. This Sunday morning, as you worship along with watching your favorite TV or internet preacher for a message, don't forget to stop, and read together my written message in Nehemiah for each one of you. Let this "wash your prayer hands" in the Word.

Don't forget to call others this week. If you are wondering "Pastor, what is it you are doing right now?" The answer is: I'm making phone calls to all of you and trying to write down your greatest prayer needs. You do the same with others. Do you know which of our folks have been laid off work? Some of our folks are really feeling discouraged. Connect with them. They need to hear your words as you spill hope and encouragement to them.

So, loved ones, let's get busy! Let's wash our hands in prayer. Connect and infect with prayer this week! Stop sitting and feeling focused on ourselves; focus outwardly on Jesus. Let's get our minds off our own miseries and hardships while we are confined in the house- remember that Jesus is not under quarantine. He isn't closed down and His doors are not locked. He isn't idle and fearful or anxious. He is nearer than we can expect!

Let's close in prayer:

"Our Wonderful Father, we worship and love You. There was a time when we loved You for Your mercy, for we knew nothing more, but now You have changed our hearts and make us love You for Your goodness, purity, justice, and true holiness. We understand now why the cherubim and seraphim continually cry 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty' (Rev. 4:8). We adore You because You are holy, and we love You for Your working in our hearts, spirits, souls, and minds to perfect us in Your Son.

Thank You, Jesus, for saving us from ourselves in every shape, and grant us especially to have the light of love strong within us. May we love You, Jesus. May we love You, O Savior! Our God, we cry out and kneel before You in helpless dependence; crying out to You about the Covid-19 coronavirus that has spread over our entire planet. Get our eyes off of ourselves and onto Christ! Father, we cry out to You in prayer for all the people in the Far East and Western Pacific who

are at the center of this disaster.

We cry out for our own United States that has risen on the danger listings from number 10 to the top five affected countries. We confess that in spite of all our scientific and medical knowledge, this coronavirus pandemic is beyond our control. We confess that nothing is beyond Your control! Soften rocky hearts. Bring a vaccine to heal this disease. We cry out to You for Your protection and healing! We pray for Your protection for those putting themselves in harm's way to treat and cure and care for the sick. We pray that You would squash the lies and false theories that people tell one another concerning this disease. We pray for government leaders and health care professionals to be able to do what is needed to move us past this outbreak.

We pray that we don't know if this is the time of Your coming, but we are getting nearer. We pray that it causes our hearts to move boldly into a serious living out of our faith. That our faith is real because we see something of You that this world can't see. We ask You, Holy Spirit to help us be washed by Your Spirit. Give us strength to pray and cry out. If we don't, what shock would this Upper Black Eddy region receive if Your "ringing rocks" were to cry out? May we have burdens to see more than good deeds from those next to us, but see real Spirit-caused revival. We pray for many, many, many souls to come to Christ as personal Lord and Savior because of this time of worldwide crisis. So help us, Your people! Keep us from stumbling, and present us faultless before Your presence (Jude 24). We will offer but one more prayer, and it is this. Lord, look with pity on any who are not in Christ. May they be converted and infected with "new life in Jesus". May many pass from death to life and never forget it. May many see the eternal light even to eternity. So, Father, help us. As You lovingly look down at our lives, caring for us as if You had our pictures on Your Ominiscient iphone- bless us now for Jesus' sake. Love us we ask, and all God's people prayed: amen."

**Praying and washing my hands in the fount,
Pastor Corvin**

Quotes about Covid 19:

"The greatest compassion is the prevention of human suffering through patience, alertness, courage and kindness."

- Amit Ray, Walking the Path of Compassion

Bible Promises to remember for healing and illness:

Psalm 107:20, "He sent out His word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave."

John 16:33, "I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."



Isaiah 38:16-17, "LORD, by such things people live; and my spirit finds life in them too. You restored me to health and let me live. Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In Your love, You kept me from the pit of destruction; You have put all my sins behind Your back."

Matthew 8:17, "This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: 'He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.'"

Jeremiah 30:17, "'For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal,' declares the Lord."

Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

Psalms 103:3, "Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases."

2 Timothy 1:7, "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

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."

