

## “Surrounded By God”

Good morning...the first thing I'm going to ask you to do is get your Bibles, get them in your hands and follow along in the Word today just as if you were sitting in our church auditorium)

I'll give the title of my message in a few moments!

Jesus is before, me, behind me, always besides me ....we are surrounded by God.

First, we need to be in one mind and one accord and get past our distractions.

Let's pray!!!

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I don't ever remember being in this situation before, but God is with us.

Who would have ever thought this would happen?

- This is the time to turn our homes into church auditoriums and the head of our households to become the priests in our homes.
- Please don't waste your time by sitting in front of the TV or entertainment from morning to night for two weeks but have devotions and get closer to God.
  - Take the time to be close to your family.
  - We can come back more spiritual and be closer to God by taking this opportunity to turn our homes completely over

to the Lord.

- The people are the church wherever they are in body.
- Whether it's in a church building or in our homes.

If possible, we need to be in church every time the doors are open for church.

- The Bible tells us not to miss going to church with other church members.
- In Hebrews it says....“not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together” so it's important to come to church on a regular basis. During this quarantine however, .....give God a chance to permanently change the atmosphere in your homes and then let him continue to be #1 in your homes even after we get back to going to the church bldg.

This quarantine is a blessing in disguise for the Church!

- Your response to the Word sitting in your living room or kitchen table could reveal your relationship with the Lord.
- It will reveal if you shout because others are shouting or whether you truly love the Word of God even over the internet ....when no one else is around but your family.

If you've ever noticed what it says in II Tim. 2 Paul was encouraging the young preacher Timothy to preach and teach the Word of God.

- Paul was sitting in a Roman prison writing his sermons and sending them out to the churches.
- We might be in quarantine and not gathered today but the Word is being sent out to our homes and hearts thru the internet.
- The Word of God cannot and will not be quarantined.  
II Tim. 2:9 tells us the “Word of God is not bound”.

You can't stop God's word from going forth one way or another.

- This world will pass away, but God's word shall never pass away!
- It's not in chains,
- It's not in quarantine or hibernation....
- It's free to all of us today.

In fact, I heard this week of several churches that were live streaming their services and people were praying and being filled with the Holy Spirit sitting on their couches at home.

- One church had a person listening to their live streaming service and called the pastor asking to be baptized. They went to the church and that Pastor Baptized the man.
- Salvation is still happening even in the midst of this Pandemic.
- God's church is not bound by this thing.
- God's Church is moving forward!

Let God loose this morning!

- Let him move in your house and heart.
- God is not bound....
- the Word is not bound....
- He's ready to move in your life today!

No quarantine can stop healing, restoration or hope.

- No quarantine or virus can stop God's forgiveness from flowing upon us and into our homes this morning.
- No quarantine can stop you from receiving the Holy Spirit at home and being born again.

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This week my wife and I were having our morning time of family devotion and while we were praying together, the Lord spoke to me and said “ I once had my church quarantine themselves and I gave them the pattern of what they need to be doing in their homes during that quarantine.”

- He said....” this isn’t the first quarantine my church has gone thru.
- I’ll keep you whether it’s one day, 2 weeks or months”
- He took me to Ex.12 where the Lord told them to go into their houses to worship, pray , eat and give thanks.
- Be spiritually focused on Gods goodness and deliverance.

They were to go into their homes , stay in their homes.

- He told them....don’t leave your house because a plague is coming upon your country.
- They weren’t aware that on day 4 the death angel was going to pass over the country, and it would kill all those that hadn’t spiritually quarantined themselves from the Egyptian world.

Ex. 12:5-7, 11-13

5. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. ( They had to do it Gods way or be lost)

11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. (Get ready to leave and be delivered at any moment. Folks...the Rapture is going to happen)

12 ¶ For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will

smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

They were to worship and turn their houses over to purposefully focusing on the Lord before and after the plague.

- He would keep them and protect them if they obeyed the lord.
- Whether you get this virus or not isn't the point...the point is to be Ready for the Lord is coming and we need to get our homes in order spiritually.

This Coronavirus 19 going around right now ought to cause everyone , saints, sinners, backsliders, people far from God to fill our churches and get right with God.

- We are living in the last days and this worldwide pandemic is a favor and sign from God to get ourselves and our homes right with God.

The Bible tells us to be like the children of Issachar “that had understanding of the times, to know what to do....”

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*This next portion is the foundation of my entire message.*

Out of curiosity I wondered where they got the name of Corona for this virus, so I looked up the meaning in the dictionary.

- It has multiple meanings but the most common one has to do with “a circle or being surrounded”.

- It's a Latin word 500 yrs old that had to do with a halo around a celestial body of believers.
- Another dictionary says it "a circle of light or halo" that surrounds the sun or moon during an eclipse.
- It's called the Sun's Corona or outer circle or glow.
- Another dictionary even defines it as a trumpet shaped circle of the center of a flower as the daffodil.
- Amazing enough another commentary called it the circular chandelier as in a church.
- After reading all these definitions, the Lord spoke to me and said... "the world feels surrounded by the Corona Virus and they are full of anxiety and fear .....but the Church needs to understand....God has us surrounded by his Spirit."
- The Holy Spirit glow is seen upon us and we will shine even brighter as the world gets darker.
- We are surrounded by the Corona of God's glory!
  - **Psa 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.**
  - **Psa 84:12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.**

This is a time to Trust God more than ever! Always and forever!

**Ps.2:12 ".....Blessed are ALL THEY that put their trust in Him".**

- In the future when all the saints are gathered around the throne, in the Book of Revelation of Jesus Christ, 21:23....basically tells us that Jesus is the Sun and the glory or glow of God is what lights up Heaven.

The world has the Coronavirus, but we have the Corona of the Holy Spirit surrounding us and His glory is upon us.

- He will KEEP us.

- He will Sustain us.
- He will Provide and Protect us no matter what comes our way.

Prov.3:3-6, 9,10

Pro 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

Pro 3:4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Pro 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Pro 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

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Pro 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

Pro 3:10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

So, trust God now more than ever.

- Don't let fear or anxiety control you.

Make sure you give sacrificially and faithfully to the church especially now during this recession.

- God doesn't need your money, but we need to give it to prove our trust in God over our finances.
- Our church giving records ought to go up over this time period just to show the devil we trust the Lord even when we feel closed in and surrounded, we realize we are surrounded by God.
- Remain strong in God!!!!

When we received the stimulus check from our government , the first check we write ought to be our tithe check plus our offerings.... before we spend the first penny of it.

- Thank God for his provisions.

God is with us and He will see us thru.

- We must come against fear, anxiety, depression and the manipulation of social media thru fake news.
- Most of us will face some personal hardships both in our families and finances but Jesus will bring us thru.
- If you believe this....please clap your hands!!!

Sitting at home....let's worship the Lord right now.

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I want to quickly draw your attention to the Book of Joshua.

My title is .....“Surrounded By God”

At the end of the Book of Deut we find the children of God at the edge of the Promise Land and the spiritual leadership is being passed down from the elderly Moses to the anointed Joshua.

- It was a new generation of Israelites.... for most of them had died in the wilderness and now it was time for them to trust Joshua, their pastor, cross over the Jordan River and claim their prize that their parents had squandered thru disobedience.
- They achieved success numerous times because they followed their Spiritual Leadership and trusted in God when they were surrounded by the enemy.
- God blessed each family with land and possessions because they stayed loyal to God in the middle of trouble.
- So today I want to remind you that we need to follow our Pastor; trust God and stay faithful even when we feel overwhelmed or surrounded by the enemy. God will bring us thru. He has us



surrounded!

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In Joshua 3 the children of God find themselves in a place just like you and I today, in a predicament they had never faced before.

- They had never faced a city like Jericho or an enemy so strong before, but they trusted in their mighty God.
- They listened to Joshua's direction.

In Joshua 3 they were preparing to cross the Jordan River and face the enemy.

- Joshua tells them what's going to happen and how God was going to do amazing things that day.

Josh. 3:1-5

Jos 3:1 And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.

Jos 3:2 And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host;

Jos 3:3 And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. (we need to go after Gods presence)

Jos 3:4 Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure ( about ½ mile): come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore.

Jos 3:5 And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.

Please notice the sentence in vs 4 "for ye have not passed this way heretofore".

- We've never been in this predicament before but the Lord is with us!

The word Sanctify in vs 5 literally means to make yourself holy and be dedicated to the Lord.

- The ark crossing over the Jordan River represented the presence of God going before them into battle.
- We need to have an open ear and open heart to the voice of God during this difficult time in America.
- There are lots of voices surrounding us with all kinds of news that can create fear and anxiety, but we need to be tuned in Gods channel and hear his voice.
- God often speaks more clearly, or we are just more open to his voice in times of need ....so here we find ourselves “in a place we’ve never been before” just like Joshua told the Israelites.
- Don’t forget... We are surrounded by the Corona of Gods glory!  
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I’ve been to the Jordan River.

- I’ve walked around the plateau that the ancient city of Jericho was erected.
  - The famous fortress, amazing thick walls and impregnable gates of the city.

All it took for Joshua and the Israelites to capture the city was Worship!

- They walked around the city and worshipped and shouted.
  - They shouted BEFORE the walls shook!
  - They shouted BEFORE the ground gave way.
  - They Worshiped and gave God the glory BEFORE the miracle happened.

Now's the time to Worship, now's the time to shout; now's the time to be obedient and faithful.....BEFORE the government tells us its ok to go back to life as normal.

I pray we never go back to normal, but we take this chance to make some changes in our life and homes to trust God no matter what comes in our life. God will see us thru it all.

Ps.46:1,2a

Psa 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psa 46:2 Therefore will not we fear,.....

Ps.47:1 O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

- God wants you to use your voice to give him Thanks even BEFORE the miracle comes!
- We are surrounded by God!

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Because they were obedient, God sent an earthquake and the walls of Jericho didn't fall over but they fell straight down into the ground and the Israelites ran into the city on flat ground and captured all.

- I've stood and looked down into the ditches and seen the top of the walls.
- I've seen the roof tops in the ground of the houses that were on top of the mighty walls.
  - There is nothing too hard for God when we trust him; stay holy; worship, shout, clap and stay submitted to spiritual leadership.

Can you say Amen right there in your homes?

- A little louder?

The Bible finishes up this miraculous story by saying in Josh. 6:20  
So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

This world is surrounded by the Coronavirus, but we are surrounded by the Corona of the Holy Spirit in our life.

- His glory shines from us and will keep us, protect us and watch over us all.
- Someday soon we're going to hear the Rapture trumpet sound and we shall receive the greatest and final reward by entering our Heavenly home, the New Jerusalem.
- Let's shout now; Lets worship and be faithful now.
- Let's turn our hearts and homes over to God now;
- God knows exactly what you're facing and He will never leave us nor forsake us.

We are surrounded by Him !

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Trust in the Lord always.

Let's lift our hands and voices in worship the Lord right there in your homes right now.

- Let your home be a place of worship for a few minutes.
- Allow the peace and the love of God flow right now in your kitchens and living rooms or wherever you are right now.

Sent from my iPad2 Mark Cottrill