

**April 14, 2020 ~A Prayer Glorifying Our Steadfast God~**

**“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

**Romans 8:38-39 NIV**

Holy God, you are our Faithful Father in Heaven. Your compassionate love for us never changes. Unlike so many people and circumstances in our world, we can always depend on you and your unchanging ways throughout our lives. You remain close to us, always ready and willing to help us make the best choices, even when we think we've got control, fail to ask your wisdom and provisions, and fall flat on our faces. We praise you and are grateful for your unchanging, steadfast character.

The pandemic circumstances change every hour. The most effective treatment plans change as doctors and scientists learn more about the respiratory needs of patients. Intervention with prescription medication changes as patients are treated and recover. After 7 weeks, we've learned to expect changing numbers of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths in our cities, states, nation and around the world. We rejoice when recoveries increase, but changing hotspots and peaks cause us to be fearful about being exposed ourselves. We've adapted to safe distancing and sheltering changes. The hardest changes in our lives, the ones that knock us to our knees, are sudden and unexpected ones. They catch us unprepared and even unwilling to believe what's happening. We are in the midst of those unexpected changes right now, but we are not alone. You are steadfast; working with us, in us, and for us.

Only you are more powerful than the coronavirus infection that's spread around the world you created. Nothing, not even the most contagious virus to ever threaten mankind, can separate us from you, God. We ask for your supernatural power to unify America, not just the citizens and people who live here, but also the elected leaders. Give them one purpose, not political or regional purposes, but the collective purpose of healing all suffering people, the safest time to end all sheltering, and the successful reopening and rebuilding of restaurants, small businesses, large companies, the travel and lodging providers, the entertainment, fitness, and personal care businesses, and schools and childcare providers from early childhood through K-12 schools, and all trade schools, colleges, and universities. The worldly things we believed to be steadfast seem to have crumbled, but you, God remain our firm foundation

We ask for your peace in this ever changing chaos. We pray for the National graphic peaks to fall and for curves to be flattened lines. We ask for leaders' wisdom and right thinking in plans for extended sheltering, reopening our economy and restoration of jobs. We pray that civil liberties and freedoms we cherish in America will be managed wisely and fairly, and that reasonable resolutions would be reached between citizens and their city and state governments.

God of right direction , you've encouraged and worked in all people generously sharing resources and time to help other people. Surely Jesus' teachings about loving our neighbors and helping those who cannot help themselves are planted in hearts and minds and are fed by your Holy Spirit. We thank you for using our human spirits to make ways when no way seem possible. Show us how to accomplish your plans to overcome isolation, personal financial crisis, nutritional needs, and loneliness. Provide what's needed at the right time and in the best ways. Give us ears to hear and obedient responses to your direction. You are steadfast in providing right direction and choices.

Paul taught the Romans how much you loved your long ago people. We are your people now, and we trust you. In these hard times, we realize how much we need you, now and forever. We treasure the promise of our eternal relationship with you, Heavenly Father. You sent Jesus to live among us. Our Savior understands what it's like to be who we are. He taught us about you, and willingly took the heavy burden of our sins to the cross. Even his death and resurrection did not separate us from you. Jesus sealed the promise of eternal life with you in the future, and his Holy Spirit lives in and guides all believers even today.

Merciful and Gracious God, in life and life after death, we will always be your children. No one, no power, nothing else including a novel virus, will be able to separate us from the love of Jesus that is your eternal love. God of Our Hope, we lift up our prayers today in the name of Jesus,. He is our Savior, and his perfect love sustains us and will continue to strengthen us throughout this pandemic. We wake each morning with hopeful and confident hearts. We know you will always and forever be our Steadfast Father God. We are so grateful. Amen.

