

April 16, 2020 ~Praying to Help Us Help~



*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it  
springs up; do you not perceive it? I am  
making a way in the wilderness and  
springs in the wastelands.  
Isaiah 43:19*

Father God, it's been happening all around us. Almost all the worldly activity in our community has come to an unfamiliar pause. We've lived so long stuck on fast forward, but for weeks, the busy-ness we've prioritized for a long, long time, has stopped. Unless our jobs are essential to necessary provisions or services, we don't drive to work. Unless our errands are deemed necessary for health and well being in the guidelines of our city and state, they aren't included on daily "to do" lists. Surely you've watched us staying sheltered in our homes. You've seen our

obedience to a national task force, our governor, and our local leaders. In our unexpected loss of free will, you have more of our attention than you've had in a long, long time.

We didn't have to look far to find you waiting for us. Lord. You've been waiting to meet us in the quiet places of our homes for as long as we've been buried neck deep in our busy-ness, Heavenly Father. Renew our obedience to your ways, Lord.

Since the almost invisible, viral enemy crept silently into our nation and then into our community, we've watched the season change from winter to spring. The seasons are faithful to your perfect timing. Not only the forests and fields, but also our lawns and gardens began changing right on time. Already, blossoms on the branches of early blooming trees and shrubs have been replaced with new, green leaves. Dormant, perennial bulbs and tubers woke up and are blooming. Winter brown lawns are green. Butterflies and bees are busy, birds have nested, and soon, we'll see fledgelings waiting near our feeders while adult birds feed them and teach them how to feed themselves. The sun sets later, and the temperatures outside are warmer. God, your plans are perfectly timed. Pandemic suffering, dying, and sheltering hasn't slowed the arrival of a new season and new life in your plant and animal kingdoms on Earth. When the world is in unfamiliar chaos, we depend on and are thankful for your consistency and perfect plans, Lord.

The ways of the world are not so dependable, and sadly, we admit that neither are we when we stay so busy prioritizing our own worldly wants and ways. In our unexpected idleness, Father God, we feel your presence and know that only your power can out-power these hard times. You've comforted our fearful hearts and welcomed our dependent cries for help. You've empowered so many of your people working around the clock to care for the sick, keeping us safe in our communities, and transporting and making available all our daily necessities in retail stores and at our front doors. We are humbled that you've been faithful to us even after we've made so many unfaithful choices. For your patience and constant presence with us, we are grateful you've remained our faithful provider, Lord.

We aren't blinded by packed schedules today, God. We hear and see that you need us as part of your plan to overpower this vicious virus. Even in our sheltered

circumstances, we ask that you would reveal ways each of us can help you help your people. Prompt us to keep in touch with those you've placed in our lives. Remind us that our phones make calls quicker than we can tap out a text. When we're asked to pray for someone or a circumstance, discipline us to stop and record the requests. When we say we'll pray, help us be obedient to make time to sit down and say the names and the needs we've written on our prayer lists. Remind us of people when we're walking, doing laundry, sewing masks, cleaning house, or doing yard work, and hear the arrow prayers we shoot up to you.

Heavenly Father. Surely the abundance of time to pray is one of your sweetest, unexpected blessings. Whether we read our devotional prayers or your Spirit guides our personal prayers, we believe you hear every prayer and know all the details and needs we don't know. We are privileged and thankful to be your army of prayer warriors in this battle against Covid-19. We are thankful for all you're doing both with us sheltered in our homes and with all your people fighting COVID-19 on the front lines, Lord.

You are doing a new thing! We perceive it, God. We feel you working, and we see the results of your work all around us. The season isn't the only thing in this world that's changed. Our circumstances changed. Our busy-ness changed. Our self-willed choices changed. We acknowledge your unconditional love for us and gentle prompting to be empowered by the Spirit in us. Help our hearts to find ways in this pandemic wilderness to be like like springs of love to anyone in the wasteland of isolation, anxiety, suffering or grief, Lord.

For this new season in our lives, we ask in Jesus' Precious Name for your continued presence, your encouragement, your boldness, and our obedience. Amen.