

March 29, 2020 ~Finding God and Sharing His Peace in My Own Anxiety~

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

Father God, I need to have an honest conversation with you today. I know you're waiting to hear from me, in fact waiting to hear from all your people, because we're feeling the same kind of anxiousness that just won't go away. The circumstance around me and around the world are unbelievable, but this isn't fiction. Your creation is being attacked by an enemy we can hardly see, a new, novel virus. It's not like any novel I know; not anything like a book I can read, finish, put away, and know that the horrific, fictional story never happened. Where are you right now, sovereign Lord, in all of humanity's struggle with our present, very real story of around the clock aggressive infection, disability. and death here in America and throughout the world; day after day after day?

Where can I find you Father? Where can I tell someone else who is struggling with the same feelings as mine to look for you? You aren't on the cable news networks, you don't have a Facebook account, and you surely don't tweet. Those are all things of this world, but you are not of this world. I acknowledge that have authority over me and over all this world.

Your Word to your people is timeless, true, and holy. In the pages of our Bibles you reveal to us where you've always been and always will be. In scripture, your servant Paul wrote to the Philippians and to us the clear direction we need to find you. Surely when we sit down and block out all distraction of this pandemic filling the world's way of talking to us, you, Merciful God, will be present with us through the Holy Spirit in us, just as you are working in and through the medical teams, the researchers, our leaders, the people not able to work and those working tirelessly to supply our needs, the teachers and the home teachers, the children and their parents, those sheltered together for protection and those waiting alone, and all those in the hospital beds being treated and the critical fighting for life.

Ever present God, when we pray, surely we are with you. When you listen to our petitions, you are with us. When we feel the grip anxiety has on us slipping away, we know your peace and protection from fear is always right where we can find it. You are always waiting, and all we need do is go to you, be still, pray thankfully and earnestly for people and circumstances, and ask for intervention from your most powerful and mighty hands.

Lord God, I ask and thank you in advance for giving me the discipline to pray for people I know and unnamed people I don't know who desperately need your mercy, strength, and protection. I ask that you provide encouragement, assurance, and whatever else you know I need, not only to find my own shelter and peace from this storm, but also for boldness to reach out and tell others who you are, what you're waiting to do for them, and where they can find you in their own storms. In my anxiousness today, I place all my requests into your hands and pray in name of Jesus Christ. Amen.