

March 31, 2020 ~Praying for Peace I When No Peace Seems Possible~

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all.” 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Powerful and Almighty God, you know all about us. The unsettling storms raging in the thoughts of people waiting yet another today in uncertainty and unrest is surely as troubling to you as it is to each of your children.

We are grateful that each day's updates offer us some hope for treatment, stories of miracle recoveries, and PPE production and deliveries. We celebrate that Navy hospital ships have arrived where desperately needed, and field hospitals are open in parks and public buildings. We are grateful when our thermometers register normal temperatures and our scratchy throats and drippy coughs are familiar symptoms from tiny grains of seasonal pollen and not from infected aerosol droplets coughed or sneezed into the air. Father God, for the good news of these and for reports of your people coming together with offers of food, financial assistance, and forgiveness of due dates and penalties, we are thankful. What a blessing it is when sheltered, high risk elderlies are contacted and asked if groceries or medications need to be picked up and left at their doorsteps! You are leading this battle and with you it will be won. For these blessings and the small victories each day, we thank you, Lord.

And yet, our hearts grow heavier each day, all day as numbers of positive testing results increase. We learn that places with no beds for advanced infections and critical patients are struggling to treat everyone who needs aggressive treatment in hospitals and clinics already filled to capacity. We close our eyes and groan when urgent care practices become life support rooms until medical transport can transfer patients to hospital units where ventilators are rapidly becoming unavailable. We ache when some in our United States continue to focus on criticism instead of praise for private sector businesses, the big and the small ones, who have changed direction and are producing in record numbers PPE, medical equipment, and advanced testing kits for all our nation and all our medical healthcare community. We worry when some continue to assemble in unhealthy numbers, go out when it's not necessary, and selfishly deny the reality of this pandemic, it's unparalleled infection, and the necessity that everyone must

be obedient in controlling the spread. Father, there are so many circumstances in this pandemic world that threaten to rob of us of our peace. The evil one is always nearby waiting and quick to enter our thoughts wanting to take advantage of the horrific, worldwide suffering and loss of life. It's so easy to be beaten down by fear, by imaginings and what ifs. We ask that you would get between us and fearful, worldly thinking.

You are omnipotent, God, and your power to calm us and fill our hearts and minds with peaceful hearts exceeds the power of fear the world feeds us. Give us a desire to come to you for our peace; to expect the Holy Spirit in us consoling us, and to look for affirmations of your unconditional love, protection, and peace in Your Word.

You are the Lord of our peace. You give us peace in all times and in all ways. You are our Heavenly Father who wants to be with all of us. In Jesus' Name, we know you hear our prayers of thankful praise for your presence and your peace. We ask that you empower each of us to share what we know with someone who has no peace today. Amen.