

## Coronavirus - Our First Response

Our media streams are dominated by one topic right now - Coronavirus. There is no doubt about it, this deadly virus is causing panic around the world. How should we respond as followers of Christ: Stockpile toilet roll? Pull our kids out of school? Cancel our holidays?

How can we help a panicked world?

### 1. Pray continually

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'*

Prayer can calm our worries; we encourage you at this time to continually pray for this growing crisis.

- Let's pray for those who have been affected and lost loved ones, especially in the most challenging regions like China and Italy
- Let's pray a dangerous prayer that this virus will supernaturally leave our world
- Let's go to God with our personal uncertainties, cares and complaints
- Let's pray for those who are battling to combat this deadly strain: doctors, nurses and those in laboratories trying to find a solution

### 2. Speak Faith

*2 Cor 4:13 ' "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak...'*

In a time of crisis we actually have an opportunity to speak faith into the situation. Our world desperately needs calm, faith filled people right now. We get to lead people into peace or panic with our words. The news is Corona is spreading at a rapid rate, there have been many fatalities, and right now there is no cure on the horizon, this is why our words have the power of life and death. We believe faith trumps facts, we listen to the facts but we speak faith. Let's keep speaking hope and life into conversations at work, university and in our homes.

### 3. Use wisdom

*James 1:5 'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all...'*

None of the above means we should be reckless. James encourages us to ask God to give us wisdom in our response. Responding to the Coronavirus likely means taking small practical steps, like washing our hands and staying home if we're sick, or seeking out appropriate medical care if symptoms arrive.

### 4. Trust God

*Proverbs 3:5 'Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'*

This is an opportunity for us to put our trust in God. Can we encourage you the only place to put your hope right now is in God, be cautious with how much media intake you are inhaling. We might not understand everything, or even have answers to our big questions, but this is where our faith is tried, tested and proven.

## **5. Keep Going**

*Philippians 3:14 'I press on...'*

Press on friends, our eternal hope is in Jesus, and he is sovereign over all. Every storm comes to an end and Coronavirus will also.

Press on, pray on, fight on, don't stop!

Love & God bless  
Ps Jon & Chantel