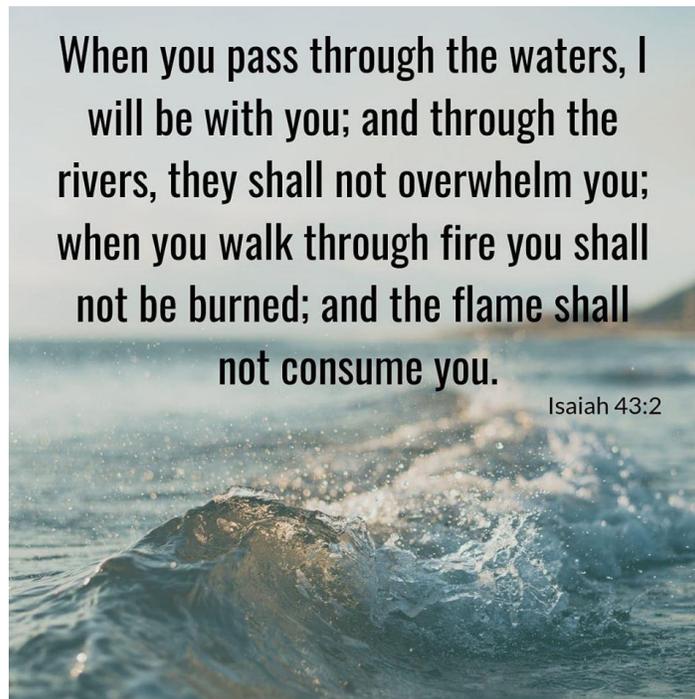


Daily Devotions – Tuesday, March 17,2020



Trust.

Trust is defined as firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.

What are you trusting in right now?

With all the panic and chaos that seems to be swirling around our world today, it may seem hard to put trust into anything. There is one we can always put our trust in.

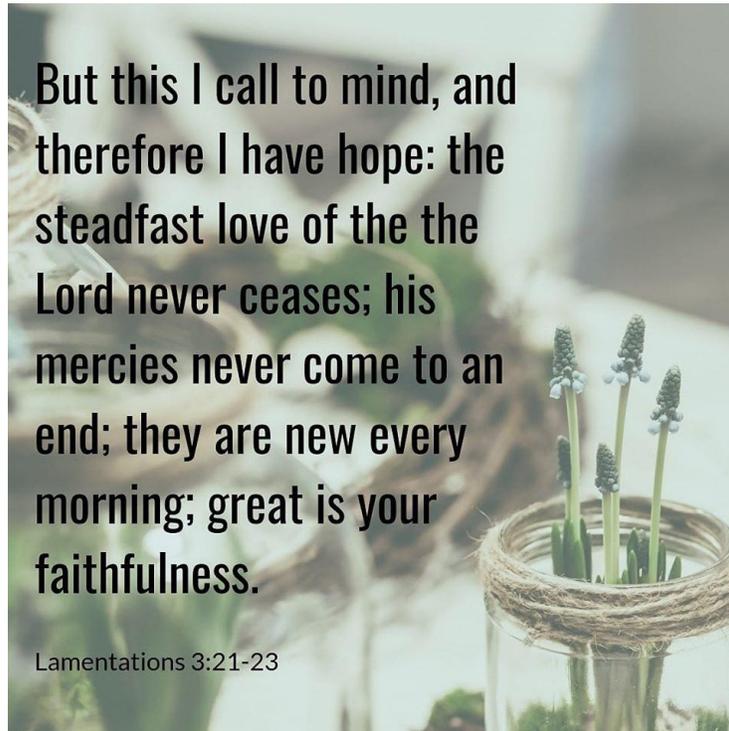
God.

He has promised to be with us always. He has promised that He is faithful. He has promised that He cares for His children. In all the uncertainty of the next few weeks, we know for a fact that our God is with us. You can cast all your anxiety and fears on Him. It is not too much for Him to handle.

Our God is reliable. Our God is the truth. Our God is stronger than this virus. Our God is able.

He is the definition of trust.

Put your trust in Him today.



God's mercy is new every morning.

Each sunrise is a new chance to show love to a neighbor.

Each day is a new day for us to connect with family and dear friends.

Each day is a new chance to help someone in need.

This time of being home with our families is truly a gift. We could focus on the fact that we can't do all certain things for an unknown period. We could choose to focus on the fear and the never-ending news of doom and gloom that seems to be coming our way.

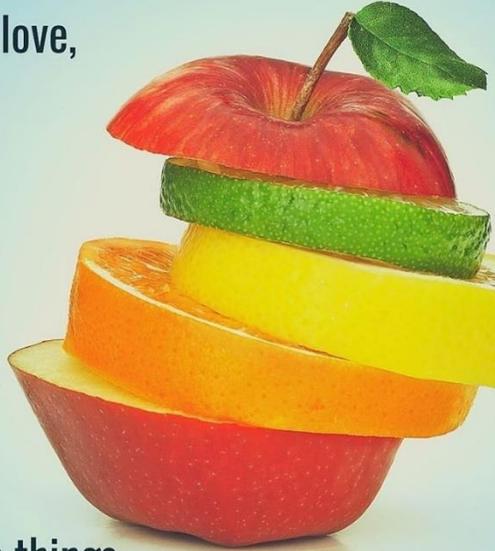
Or

We could focus on reconnecting with each other. We could focus on the fact that we now have time to all sit down and talk to each other. We could look for the helpers, as Mr. Rogers would say. We can see all around us there are people helping their neighbors and reconnecting with their children and parents.

Students, take this time and check in with friends you don't get to see all the time.

We can see all around us the love of Christ being shared. We must open our eyes to see it and we must get out there and be it to others.

**But the fruit of
the Spirit is love,
joy, peace,
patience,
kindness,
goodness,
faithfulness,
gentleness,
self-control;
against such things
there is no law.**



Being in a house with people, even with our families, can be hard at times. We can become agitated and annoyed with each other. We can say snippy comments we might not normally say if it weren't for being constantly together. We can isolate ourselves to our rooms or basements to get away.

Brothers and sisters, I pray you would remember the fruit of the Spirit in those times where you feel yourself becoming annoyed. It's easy to say things we don't mean with friends and family because we know they will love and forgive us. In those times remember what God has told us about love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

gentleness, and self control.

Love

1 John 4:16 "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

Joy

Isaiah 61:10 "I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

Peace

Isaiah 26:3 "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

Patience

Ephesians 4:2 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

Kindness

Eph 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Goodness

Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Faithfulness

Proverbs 3:3-4 "Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man."

Gentleness

Titus 3:2 "To speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people."

Self Control

2 Tim 1:7 "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

How can you show the fruit of the Spirit to your families during this time?



The changing of the seasons has always been something I love. The warm, green, and humid summers of Missouri turning into the red and orange leaves of Fall. Cold, and sometimes snowy winters turning into the pink blooming flowers of spring. The changing of the seasons is like clockwork.

Yesterday was the first day of Spring. While it snowed 8 inches here in Denver, the day before had given hope of warmer weather to come. I spent the day outside with my daughter taking in the sunshine. While on the trail I noticed flowers and the green of the trees starting to make an appearance.

New life.

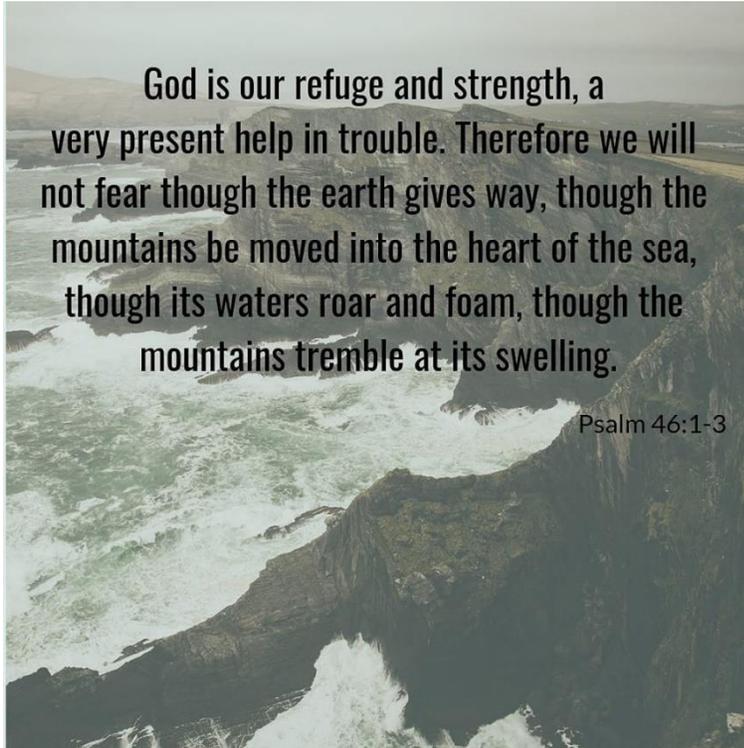
New season.

That got me thinking about the seasons of the church year and how excited I am for Easter morning to celebrate the living Lord. The tomb is not empty. We are not living in a winter, but a Spring of new life.

No matter if we are still battling COVID-19 or if we are able to be together in worship Easter morning, our Lord is resurrected and is Lord over all the Earth who will return again. That is the hope we cling to.

That is the hope we look forward to coming. He is as reliable as the changing of the seasons in the Midwest.

In this time of uncertainty look to the reliability of our Lord who loves you so much He lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose again 3 days later to forgive the sins of the world. That is what is certain for you and for me.



God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Psalm 46:1-3

It's easy to feel lonely right now. Being in our houses all the time, not being able to go to school, play on our sports teams, sing with our choirs. It's draining. It can be easy to sink into loneliness.

It's okay to be disappointed in the things that have been put on hold. It's okay to be sad that a sports season is over or that you are missing your favorite class. But the devil would like nothing more than to see you sit in that disappointment and loneliness.

God made us for community.

From the very beginning with Adam in Genesis, God said it was not good for man to be alone. So, God gave Adam a helper, Eve. From there came families and those families grew into communities. Now we are blessed with community in many ways.

We have our school community.

We have our extracurricular communities.

We have our church community.

We have our family as a community.

While we might not be able to be in person with each other, don't isolate yourself.

Video chat with a friend. Group play video games. Join your church online for worship and Bible study.

Remember that you are never alone. God is always with you. You can talk with him any time. You probably have more time to sit down and talk with God right now than two weeks ago. Take advantage. Grab your Bible. Grab a journal. Listen to worship music and just be with Him. Enjoy being in His presence.

You are not alone.

He is with you.