

As I read the readings for this week, I realized that this is exactly what we need to do during this time of trial. Most people think of this quarantine as a prison sentence that Satan has devised to keep us from doing God's work. We can't be together to worship or have fellowship in person only on computer or phone. So here we all sit and think Satan has won, or has he?

Instead of being angry or sad or frustrated because of the limitations and new restrictions on us all.

We can use this time that we all now have more than enough of, to get closer to God. Last week we heard that God wouldn't leave us alone. He hasn't he is right here with us helping us get through this trial. God is just waiting for us to realize that he is still there.

Jesus gave us the best example of what to do. He prayed. When Jesus prayed He spoke from His heart, He slayed all His problems, questions, fears, at the feet of God. God gave Jesus guidance, and what words to use when teaching people. Jesus made God real and accessible. He showed us all that we can do it too. When we read His word and follow His ways, it brings us closer to God.

We need to trust God to help us through all these tough times, and we really are in the midst of a tough time. This is too big for us to solve on our own, we need to pray now more than ever, that is our personal line to God. There are no busy signals on this line, it is always open and ready for us to use. Even if we aren't all together we can still pray together we can use the phone or a meeting like we are doing now.

God didn't say we wouldn't have trials to go through, He said He would be with us through those trials. He doesn't give us anything we can't handle; He gives us the strength to endure. God knows us better than we know ourselves. He made us. He is using this time to strengthen us. We are being honed in His righteous fire to be the followers He sees us as.

We need to thank God for doing this, praise and worship is a great way to say thank you. This is also something we don't need to be in a big group to do. We can do this at home, in the car, anytime we think about God we can say thank you. This is how we can deepen our relationship with Him. Dwell on His word the Bible. When life starts to get heavy, pray. When the walls start to close in, pray. Sing songs: it's like praying twice. These are just a few things that help me feel closer to God.

We also need to sit quietly and just listen and experience the awesome presence God. A lot of people get the pray part but forget the listen part, how do you get the answer if you forget to listen. He will answer, it may not be the answer you want or expect or want but we will get the answer we need. God doesn't give us our wants; He takes care of our needs. He doesn't work on our time, we have to learn to work on His time.

We need to pray, prayers from the heart are the best, we need to listen, it's a part of the process, we need to thank Him. Lastly don't be afraid, these words are in the Bible 365 times one for every day of the week. We are not alone, God made this promise to His people, we are His people, and he always keeps His promises. AMEN