

Daily Devotional, October 23, 2020 How Normal is Our “New Normal?”

We have all experienced a “new normal” in 2020. Setting up a home office was my first step in becoming a work-from-home employee. I guess I had thought I’d love it, since I had worked at home many years before as an independent contractor establishing roofing contracts. But quite honestly, it was quite an adjustment! Listening to the news made me anxious about leaving home, so I felt trapped in the very place I love so much. Even a simple walk around the block was a new experience; neighbors were wearing masks and distancing themselves. Conversations were taking place from six feet apart and the topic never changed – how will we survive the COVID?

The Bible is full of stories of people who experienced a “new normal”. Some of them like Abraham, Moses, and Ruth leaned on God for help, and while the road wasn’t easy, they experienced abundant blessings. Others like Adam & Eve, the wandering Israelites, and Jonah leaned upon their own strength and failed miserably.

Throughout my life, I’ve experienced several “new normal” times – leaving home for college, getting married, having children, becoming an empty nester, changing jobs and careers, and moving to another place. The difference between successfully maneuvering these changes or floundering about, was directly proportional to my own willingness to lean upon God and trust in God’s faithfulness.

So, how can we lean on God during these uncertain times? It’s quite simple really; by reading God’s Word and embedding it in our hearts, by seeking God in prayer, and by connecting with other believers. The Bible contains these comforting words for troubled times:

Isaiah 41:10 – So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Psalm 34:4 – I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

Joshua 1:9 – Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Can you recall something in your life that was frightening at the time, but then became your “new normal”, and surprisingly the source of great blessings? If so, thank God for the good that came from it. If not, be prepared, because it will surely happen! The beauty in these uncertain times is that God can grow us in our faith and help us learn to lean upon Him more.

Prayer: Lord, grant Your protection, and in protection, strength, and in strength, understanding, and in understanding, knowledge, and in knowledge, the knowledge of justice, and in the knowledge of justice, the love of it And in the love of it, the love of all existences And in that love, the love of spirit and all creation. Amen.