

Daily Devotional, November 27, 2020 No Fear, No Worries

7 “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 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.” Joshua 1:7-9 (NIV)

One of the great temptations of life is to think that we can do it all by ourselves. It is true that working with others, relying on others, even living with others, can often be a struggle. We don't always see eye to eye with one another. Our differences can drive a wedge between us. The frustration from being with others, even those whom we love, can often push us away into solitude. Our relationships, which are so often a joy, can quickly become a burden.

The same is often true for our life of faith. Frequently, life is full of joy and peace, but there are times when joy and peace seem to be a distant dream. The struggles of the day and the weighty demands of work, family, and other obligations are almost more than we can handle. In those busy times, we are tempted to leave God off our schedule. Toss in the worries of the possibilities of contracting Covid-19 and God seems to be completely off of our radar unless we find ourselves pleading to God for mercy. Otherwise, we neglect the gift of prayer, worship, and our devotional time – which is our connection and communication with our Lord.

We were not created to live life on our own. We are better when we are with others. We are at our best when we are connected to God. At this time, we cannot be physically together, however we can be together virtually and by phone. For some this is a weak solution. Physical touch and personal contact cannot be substituted for in any menial way.

The good news is that God has promised we are not alone. Even when we push away, God is with us. When Joshua and the Hebrew people were about to cross into the Promised Land, fear crept into the camp. Rumors began to spread about the dangers they would face on the other side of the river. God offered them this promise, “The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” In the difficult times, we often turn inward and forget this beautiful promise. When we connect with God and our neighbors, we are reminded that we are not walking this difficult journey of life alone. This will make all the difference in how we handle frustration, temptation, the daily demands of life, and any virus that comes our way.

Prayer: O Lord, I give you my worries and concerns and I ask for your guidance. You see it all, the outer conditions, the inner turmoil. I know that you understand my life, that sometimes my heart weighs heavy with trouble. Right now I lay all

these things before you. I breathe in, safe in the knowledge that I am held by grace. I breathe out, knowing that I am held secure in your arms, and I wait on you. For you are all truth, you are overflowing love, you are a beacon of hope and a fortress of faith. Lord, I choose to be attentive to your voice. May I be alert to your Spirit's guiding as I journey onwards with you. My trust lies only in You. Amen.