

Daily Devotional, April 15, 2021 Turning Adversity Into Good

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. Psalm 139:7-12 (NIV)

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the potential threat to each of our lives, over the past year my living room has been my new office. Recently, having been vaccinated and getting past the two-week isolation period afterward, I am slowly re-entering my office space on a semi-regular basis.

One GOOD thing about my home office is its large window. I have enjoyed looking outside occasionally, knowing what the weather looks like, and glimpsing a crane or heron or a family of ducks down on the inlet across the street from us or a flock of sparrows attacking our feeders just below the window. My office at church has two tall vertical windows and while that helps keep me on track of the weather, the only view is of the parking lot on the north end of our building. Trust me, I'm not complaining, just merely pointing out one of the small advantages of working at home. When you're isolated, you look for every silver lining behind the dark clouds looming overhead.

All this past year I had been looking for the GOOD in each day. If I don't go to the grocery store for a few weeks, we'd clean out what had been stockpiled in our pantry. If I didn't drive to work, I'd save on gas and wear and tear on my car. If I worked in my pajamas, I wouldn't create as much laundry for Laura! Those are all GOOD things! I've reached out to friends, relatives, and church members most days who may be lonely and feeling isolated in their own homes. If I'd been working in my Hope office each of those days, much of these things most likely wouldn't have happened.

How about you? Are you looking for the GOOD? It's all around, even if you're home alone and isolated from other people. GOOD is present if we have food, water, a warm bed, a safe home, basic essentials, and are relatively healthy. The quicker that we are vaccinated and are ready to emerge from our isolation, the sooner we will begin to sense the normalcy that we all crave.

GOOD and GOD are so close in both spelling and meaning; I guess when I'm looking for GOOD today, what I'm really doing is looking for GOD! Somehow that seems different, but it is one and the same. God is GOOD all the time! Where is GOD today? God is here with me in my home office and at the church office. God is with you wherever you are, and God is with your family members and friends.

Are we isolated? Never! GOD is always present with us and in us, and rises above all the problems and troubles that we face. GOD is GOOD!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your goodness and faithfulness in my life. Thank You for refreshing and renewing my heart and protecting me from the sickness and disease that seems to be lurking around every corner. Fill me with Your peace; fill me with Your strength. Help me to stand firm and to lean on You until I see my harvest of blessing that You supply me with each day. I give thanks to You for my supply and protection. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.