

Daily Devotional, April 19, 2021 Living Into God's Love

Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing, and the true light is already shining. 1 John 2:8 (NIV)

I sure hope you enjoyed the day outside yesterday like we did. The beauty of nature in the springtime simply amazes me. Even though I've experienced springtime in Northern Illinois my entire life, I am still blown away by the beauty of God's creation here. Also, because I have lived here my whole life, I know that things can change in a matter of minutes. So, like I said, I hope you got to enjoy some of the beauty of yesterday. Colder weather and even rain mixed with snow is still a part of our weather forecast these next few days.

Things do have a way of changing, and sometimes rather quickly, but as we read in 1 John, we have a light that comes from God that is causing the darkness to fade away. Each day, now, we move closer and closer to our quarantine time expiring, and for many the idea of being vaccinated and able to get out again is bringing new light and life. However, today, I also want to remember and think about those who have heightening anxiety over society reopening. We need to remember that though the curve is flattening, and though we are seeing less sickness, the virus has not, and probably will not simply go away.

We need to remember that we have been shown love, and that in turn, we might also share love. Some of the best ways in which we can use our soon-to-come freedom is by helping others who may still fear leaving the house because of pre-existing health conditions. Many may still fear getting out to get essential items, and what a beautiful thing it will be as we continue to care for them. The end of this time of isolation could become the opportunity for our light to shine before all people, that they might see and praise their Father in heaven.

We already know the new commandment, because it is reflected in the words of Jesus as he was about to ascend into his place at the right hand of God the Father: "love one another, as I have loved you." May we, now more than ever, increasingly live into the love in which God has first loved us.

Much love and prayer to each of you. Our time apart is coming ever closer to an end, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Prayer: God, we know you are calling us to go. Some you call to serve other nations, some just to a neighbor's house. You are calling all of us to say, "Here I am, send me." God, send us to those who are in need of hearing your love story, whether it is a parent, coworker, child or checkout clerk. Whoever and whenever, open our spirit to listen to your voice when you tell us to go. In the saving name of Christ we pray, Amen.