

TWO VIRUSES

“FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR BUT A SPIRIT OF POWER, LOVE, AND A SOUND MIND.”

- 2 Timothy 1:7

I am convinced that there are two viruses threatening our world right now. The first one is the coronavirus, which is a result of living in a fallen world that sickness and disease are part of. We are grateful for those who are working on the virus, and each of us need to be willing to follow protocols to limit its spread (another email will be coming soon which will explain steps we are taking). We're reminded by this virus of how fragile humanity is and how together we are – the virus doesn't pay attention to race, geography, or politics.

The second is a spiritual virus called fear and our enemy is trying to gain entrance through the current outbreak. We aren't surprised by this because we know “the devil goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour...” (1 Peter 5:8) We need to be careful not to feed this second virus by letting fear make decisions for us. Peter says we are to “resist him, steadfast in the faith.” (1 Peter 5:9) You will not defeat fear by following the physical protocols (no matter how many of them you follow) because it has a spiritual source. The more we act out of fear, the more we empower the spirit of fear.

This is a great time to be a believer! It's now time to believe God for ourselves and for those around us. Fear is trying to take root, let's give it no place. How do we overcome fear?

First, believe and receive the love God has for you. His perfect love casts out all fear (1 John 4:18) – whether you are sick or not, you are loved. Rest in that love.

Second, spend as much time seeking God as you do watching the news. I know we want to be current on what's happening, but this is a time we all need to press into God.

Third, use your God-given authority and rebuke the spirit of fear in Jesus Name. This morning's One Year Bible reading was in Mark 16 where Jesus tells His disciples to go into the world and preach the gospel and, if they get bitten by a snake or are poisoned, it will not hurt them. He told His believers that they had authority over demons and would lay their hands on the sick and they would recover. Let's be on offense at this time and not retreat because of fear.

Even as fear is contagious, so is faith. Jesus loves people who have been ignoring Him. There is now a great opportunity to reach people because there is a great sense of need in people who were living complacent lives just a few weeks ago.

God is on the throne!

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