



## “LET’S PRAY MORE FOR OUR MINISTRY THAN OUR MISERY!!”

---

- Our **mission** is to *Reach* people in the Name of Jesus; *Disciple* people in the Way of Jesus; *Empower* people in the Service of Jesus.
  - Our **method** is to ensure that everything we do is *Christ Centered; Word Focused; & Ministry Minded*
  - Our **message** is *the Gospel*.
- 

### Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

*" For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

## Prayer

**"Father open my eyes, so I can see Your truth. Open my ears, so I can hear Your Voice. Open my mind, so I can understand Your Word. And open my heart, so I may receive all that You have for me, that is for me. In Jesus Name, AMEN!"**

## Thought:

As we start to slowly emerge from our quarantine, though remaining careful and vigilant about our safety and protection, I want to challenge each of you this week, starting now, to begin praying more for your ministry than to remove your misery.

I have already begun praying for my and our ministry in the midst of this time when things are kind of dark, when things are scary, when people don't know how long of a season this is going to be or what kind of toll it is going to take.

Let's be honest, during this season of extended quarantine, it's hard not to grow irritable, anxious, discouraged and weary, and it's hard to keep a positive attitude sometimes. There's a bit of relief in just admitting, "I'm struggling," and realizing you're not alone. When you feel pressure to do as well as you imagine everyone else is doing, that only compounds the intensity of whatever unpleasant emotion(s) you're prone to feel during quarantine.

Here's the thing about a sour disposition: **It's contagious and it gathers momentum.** If you have others in your home, apartment, condo, townhouse, etc., your negative attitude is likely to spread. Also, as you feed your negative attitude, it only gets heavier. So, while it's natural to be struggling with our attitude right now, it's not healthy. We can be honest about it (authentic) and make efforts to change (grow) at the same time.

When we look at how Jesus went through life and how the apostles went through life, we can see that maybe this is the best time to say, "Lord, what a great time to do ministry. Use us to be love. Use us to be joy. Use us in the midst of this season we're in." Because, that is what is going to stick out and be on display right now.

I am not saying to stop praying for God to take this misery away. I am not super spiritual—when there is misery in my life, I absolutely ask God to take it away. **But we need to pray more for our ministry in order for us to be light during this time.**

Misery shouldn't kill our ministry; it should fuel it. I don't like going through trials, but they shouldn't stop our ministry. When do you see the light better, outside in the daylight or at night? It is the same light no matter what time it is, but you will see the light in the darkness in amazing ways.

Can you imagine having a teammate who only wants to play if the team is winning? What a lousy player and attitude; and yet, I feel for some their Christianity is that way. "God, I am with You when I am winning, when I am "blessed"—using my definition of being blessed: health, wealth and prosperous. When I am blessed that way, I am with You, but if I start losing, I am going to go sit on the e bench."

Well, maybe God is saying, “This is where you will shine. This is where I am going to use you like no other time.”

If a good life means no persecution or opposition, then our lives won’t always be good. What is a good life? We are going to have a lot of Christians saying, “I am not having a good life.” Especially these days, but the problem is with their definition.

There is a difference between living a good life and a godly life. In Acts, the apostles’ definition of “good life” had changed. We’re not looking for a good life anymore—we are here to give glory to God, and that’s a game changer for everything.

The American dream and Christianity cannot coexist unless you greatly change your definition of the American dream. Instead, we need to have a kingdom dream that says, “God, it’s not about the quality of my life anymore; it’s how I glorify y You. And if I shine brighter in dark times, I will pray for darkness to end, but I will pray more for my ministry.”

It is a definition change.

If we redefine “good life” as simply glorifying God, then life will never be bad. But if we define it as health, wealth and prosperity, most of us won’t have a good life during this time.

If our definition of good life is “I get to glorify God,” I promise you this season won’t be bad. In fact, it might be one of the best seasons we’ve ever been through. We can shine, and people will note that we’ve been with Jesus.

During this crisis, hopefully you have already been asking yourself and considering, “How is God calling me to serve?” Prior to this outbreak, loneliness and isolation were serious problems in our nation. Social distancing, so very important now, will exacerbate these feelings. As Christians, we need to continue reaching out in tangible ways to let our family, friends, neighbors, etc., know that they are not alone.

As you are able, consider how God might be calling you to listen to others or speak a comforting word, to help provide food or necessities to those who are lacking, or to share other blessings with those who are struggling. A phone call, text message, email, handwritten letter, etc., can be very encouraging to those who are isolated.

Even in times of social distancing, we can safely reach out in mercy and love. God is calling His people to be a blessing and, most importantly, to provide hope to those who are fearful. There will be many inconveniences, challenges, and frustrations in times like these. God grant us a spirit to see these as avenues of service to others. God is at work in each of us.

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: "Dear Lord, thank You for the unmerited favor of Your love. It is because of the faith You created in me that I have been saved, set apart to do Your work, and received Your grace. Through Christ, I have received grace and mercy. Father, I sometimes miss the mark and fall short of Your will. Thank you for the grace and mercy you extend to me when I falter in my faith. Help me to depend on You to do what I think I cannot do. Let your strength alone sustain me, especially now in this season! This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!"**

May God continue to bless and protect you always!

*Pastor King*