



## 2020 Theme

# “Redeemed, Gifted and Purposeful” 1 Corinthians 1:7

Volume 12, Issue 3  
August 23, 2020

## THE VOICE FROM THE VILLAGE “WHICH DOG ARE YOU FEEDING?”

Dr. Eric H. Jones, Founder/Senior Pastor



To overcome difficulties is to experience the full benefit of your existence in Christ. Even the most intense conflicts, if overcome, leave behind a sense of security and calm that is not easily disturbed. It is just these intense conflicts and their residuals left behind which are needed to produce valuable and lasting results. Every moment of the day we are feeding our thoughts. What we feed on will grow in our minds and hearts. That is what is going to flow out of our lives. Just as our bodies reflect what and how

much we eat, our lives will reflect what we feed the mind, spirit and soul. The story is told about an Indian who had come to Christ. When asked about his new found faith he described it as having two dogs living inside him. One is like an old dog. He is mean, vicious, unmanageable, and down right un-trainable. The second is like a new dog that is obedient, longs to serve Christ, and gives attention to the Lord. He described the two dogs as always fighting to get his attention and wanting to have control over his entire life. When asked what dog wins he replied back with, "The one I feed the most." In dealing with the sinful nature, Christians have to become like a man who owns an old dog that is un-trainable, refuses to obey, always finds trouble when turned loose, bites children and causes a path of

destruction wherever he goes. Finally, the law shows up on his porch with a court order informing this man that he must fulfill his duty and restrain the dog for the protection of himself and the safety of the community. Thus, the man restrains the dog with something that is stronger than himself. He puts the dog on a chain Christ is the chain that controls the old nature. During these difficult times make sure you feed the right dog or the new man and not the old.



### Koinonia Celebrating BLACK HISTORY 365 days a year



TESTify	2
Catbird Seat	3
Vote 2020	4
Healthy Is As Healthy Does	5
COVID-19 Reminders	5
A Snapshot of God - Part 2	6
The Lifeline	7
Truism	7
Get Your Laugh On	8

### Special Points of Interest:

- Election 2020 and Young Voters
- COVID-19 Reminders
- Spiritual Lessons from the Pandemic
- Sister Fannie tells us about “The Lifeline”

# T.E.S.T.I.F.Y

**By Gisla Bush**



**THE TEST:** Does your strong belief that God is directing you override God's written Word spoken to you?

I can still clearly recall that disturbing day in March 2020 when my husband and I received an email from Johns Hopkins University bearing the news that one of its students had succumb to the coronavirus and that other students may be infected. The next day an executive decision was made to cancel all classes and urged students to return home. However, they assured students that accommodations would be made for students who needed to remain on campus. This notice came days before my son was due to fly home for Spring Break. Because of the urgency of the matter and for his safety, we canceled the flight and immediately secured reservations

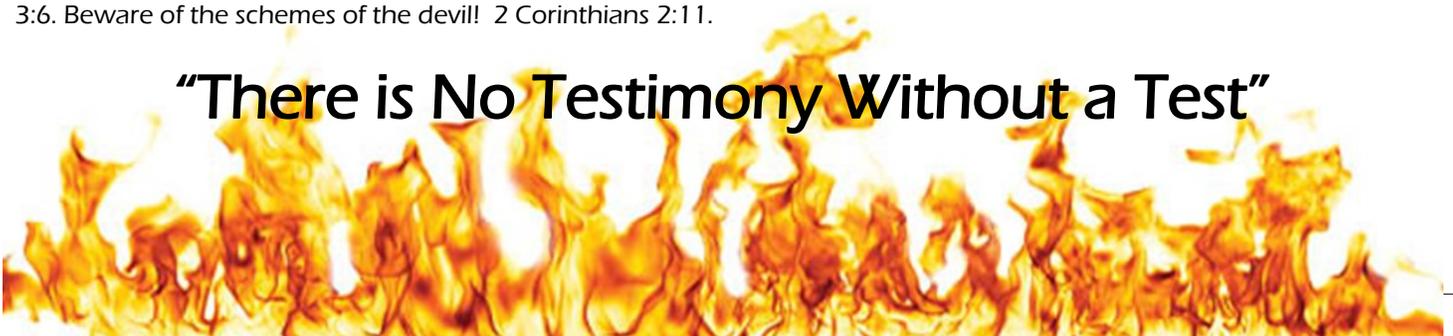
of a mini-van for a nonstop roundtrip to Baltimore, Maryland. My husband and I decided to take driving and sleeping shifts to accomplish the 40-hour drive to Maryland and back.

About halfway through the trip there, my son informed my husband that we should turn around since he was opting to stay. That announcement did not go over well as my husband chose to stay the course. Upon arrival to the university, our multiple calls and texts went unanswered. We eventually reached one of his classmates who had him to call. After my husband and son spoke again, my son was given an ultimatum. Two hours later, my son, with scriptural support in his hand, returned to the van to explain his position and what had provoked his hesitancy. He stated that he had contemplated the communication he had had with his father and prayed throughout the night until 4:00 am searching scriptures in order to justify his decision to stay. He disclosed that he went to bed exhausted and perplexed that he had not heard from God. He further proceeded to read and expound from his paper various scriptures. He expressed that the struggle was great because he was certain that God intended for him to remain because he was sent by Him to that university to be trained to do his life work. He shared that he also needed the money he was earning from his job on campus. Ultimately, he revealed that God had spoken clearly through the scriptures that he was to honor his father and mother; that he was to obey his parents; and that he should not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself. Ephesians 6:2, Matthew 6:34.

**TESTIMONY:** My son returned to his room to continue packing his belongings for storage. Within a few hours into the return trip, we received an email from the university indicating that a final decision had been reached to completely close down the university and that all students, except international students, had to leave immediately. The email also informed students, who were employed on campus, that they would continue to receive checks for the balance of the semester. Were they eavesdropping on our conversation? God had confirmed my son's decision to follow God's Word rather than his own sincere belief. Wow! God is, in fact, omniscient – all-knowing, all-wise, and all-seeing.

**FOOD FOR FAITH:** It is easy to justify your choices, decisions, answers, and actions. Our honest, sincere desires can sometimes be misinterpreted as God's voice. If you are unsettled in making a decision, just maybe you are attempting to disregard your own conscience or the Holy Spirit who is trying to direct you. In James 1:14, the writer states that "but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust (desires) and enticed." This is why the Bible admonishes us not to lean on our own understanding but acknowledge Him in all our ways and He shall direct our path. Proverbs 3:6. Beware of the schemes of the devil! 2 Corinthians 2:11.

**"There is No Testimony Without a Test"**



## Views From the Catbird Seat

Join Alvin C. Romer for commentary about life and faith in the African-American Diaspora.



### Spiritual Lessons from the Coronavirus Pandemic

By Deacon Alvin C. Romer



Suffice it to say, there's no better time than now to dwell on what is plaguing the world on a daily basis restricting our society. This essay is being written from my observation from a spiritual awareness that cannot escape the current mandates imposed upon us without sacrifice. What are we to sacrifice you ask? Pay homage to what the Bible says about God's promises as opposed to what you feel are promising to you living without His dictates. Here I am, as I imagine many of you are, getting used to the 'new normal' imposed by the pandemic of the coronavirus. It is a jarring process to get used to the restraints this puts upon us. As I opine, I'm all over the place with my thoughts on this, especially as how it has an impact on worship, and being disrupted from status quo. The world as we know it always has been hungry for good news, but right now, I think we might be starving for it! We're exhausted by the onslaught of devastating headlines — one after another after another. Some of us are traumatized by what we're seeing and hearing. Some of us have gone numb, trying to cope with different directives just to survive. Our Pastor has been adamant in continuing his delivery of the Word under specific guidelines and his undying belief that he is here for a purpose, especially now. In a virtual sense it allows for options that are ours for continuity. When we look at what's going on now our continued need for church is still important before the virus hit. Thank God for the ZOOM applicable mode we can still tune in. The purpose here is for me to give

you three spiritual lessons that should not be ignored while we continue to be vigilant and vital.

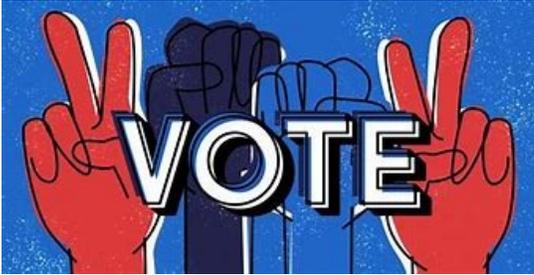
Lesson Number One is—don't abandon God's Word without complete introspective analysis to what should be heeded. I want to give you two important scriptures from the book of Psalms. They are paramount in disarming fear and uncertainty. To wit: **Psalms 85** and a few pages over, **Psalms 91** are my companions. The former deals with a prayer for continued favor, revival and restoration as you read verses 4-7. Don't stop there. Subsequent verses 8-13 finds us having confidence in God's response for solutions through righteousness, mercy and truth. The aforementioned leads us to Psalms 91 which is basically God's way of telling us that whoever runs to Him and seeks His Divine protection will be saved from calamity and destruction. When we pray the world of this Psalm it becomes a powerful shield of shelter from fear. I call this particular Psalm the 9-1-1 to our Savior. It's brimming with declarations and promises of God's protection. Fear is the one emotion God doesn't want to overtake us, because when we fear, it reveals in our hearts how we are relying on our own effort and not trusting in Him.

Lesson Number Two: Use better discernible options for spiritual value. This is but an extension from those two scriptures above. During this time of woe, is it a prerequisite or requirement to get closer to God? If your answer is an affirmative, then Lesson one is part of your process of facing the challenges to strengthen your faith in this second lesson. For me, as it should be for you, it's important to distinguish between true and false saviors, While vaccines may limit the immediate threat to the coronavirus and Covid-19 maladies for us either individually or collectively, death will still have its day and eventually lay its claim upon us. In between corrupted to corrected, it's natural for the world to ultimately rely on vaccines to calm our preoccupations and restore predictability to future

endeavors back to normalcy. But only God opens a real path beyond fear and beyond death. I always say our lives are on loan, where that Man upstairs is the best guarantee fulfilling that loan in a destiny that lies way past this troubled world. On a personal note, the most important thing I've learned has more to do with me knowing that I'm covered with the best protection there is—the propensity of His saving Grace knowing only He can discern what's best for me!

In summation, the final lesson is all about acknowledging the value of life itself. What this means is doing all that pertains to protecting yourself and your family. The Bible has quite a few mandates for us to live the type of life that will have returns on your investment. We have an important opportunity to ponder these deeper lessons as they play out in our midst. Rather than placing our hopes in the limited promises we are prone to adhere to, the pandemic reminds us of our vulnerability and the need for God being present in hearts and minds. No one knows how long we will be periled with plagues and pestilences that beset us during this unnerving hiatus. As such, as you read this newsletter, you are now the recipient of a new format in our editorial presentation via online media. We will continue to provide the sort of articles and commentary that both challenge and undergird your mindset for critical thinking. As long as I'm allowed to write exponentially, the Newsletter Ministry won't relent in how we keep you informed. I venture to add that your thoughts are important to us, also. If you have the desire to write an article or narrative about living through and overcoming adversity relative to this virus, we would love to hear from you!

## 2020 will be the most important election for young voters



This year's election is perhaps the most important election of my life. Not because of any specific race taking place, but because it is the first one that I will participate in. As a young voter, I have the potential to change the course of history as I raise my voice with other young adults.

Older Americans represent the status quo. Elected officials don't need to adapt and solve new problems because their careers are perpetuated by that status quo. Why change their strategies and solve new problems if their voter bloc is content with the way things are? Stagnation is the result.

Young people are different. We see a very different future with different challenges and hazards. We see the effects of income inequality, of rampant climate change and runaway healthcare costs. We see politicians bickering over the issues of the past while neglecting our future. But, why should they listen if we don't speak up?

Imagine if we had a wave of young voters this year. Politicians from all sides of the political spectrum will have to shift their focus. If they don't start seeking solutions to the issues important to the rising generation, they will start losing elections.

In order to disrupt the stagnation that is Washington, see real solutions from all levels of government, and provide a brighter future for all Americans, young people need to vote. Our combined voices will change the course of history.

*Excerpt derived From: Readers Forum – Author Broderik Craig*



**FIGHTING FOR THE VOTE:** Young civil rights activists poured into Mississippi in the summer of 1964 to demand voting rights for all. TED POLUMBAUM COLLECTION / NEWSSEUM



# HEALTHY IS AS HEALTHY DOES

*Health Tips and Advice by Sara M. Snell*

## COVID-19 vs. God's Word



The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other medical sources tell us what to do to prevent the spread of Covid-19; such as, wear masks, keep a safe distance, wash your hands for 20 seconds, watch for symptoms, when to seek medical attention, and testing guidelines to achieve temporary life.

Did you know that God's Word gives us guidelines to follow for us to achieve everlasting life?

It tells us how we should live our life to please Him. This requires: studying God's word, clothing ourselves with the breastplate of righteousness, safe distancing ourselves from evil or wickedness, watching for signs and symptoms for not pleasing God, knowing how to seek spiritual help, how to strengthen our faith and to pray without ceasing.

In both instances we may be in a storm, but God will guide us through. We are all "affected".

I discovered that God wants US to LOVE each other, care for each other, encourage each other, pray for each other, TRUST HIM and remain FAITHFUL. A healthy diet, exercise and prayer is needed during this pandemic of Covid-19. We must be spiritually well to help our brain to focus on doing the Will of God.



1Thessalonians 5:<sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing. <sup>18</sup> In every thing give thanks.

# CORONAVIRUS

# COVID-19

### Symptoms

- FEVER**
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH**
- COUGH**

### AVOID

### Preventions

Wash hands frequently with soap. Use hand sanitizer when soap is not available.

Use a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Dispose of tissues and promptly wash your hands.

Keep social distancing space of 6 feet from others. Wear a mask when available if you are displaying symptoms.

Ask your doctor if you or someone you know are experiencing symptoms, or have traveled from an area with ongoing spread.

Avoid contact with anyone displaying symptoms or those in quarantine.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Avoid crowded places and keep standard 6 feet of social distance.

## A Snapshot of God: How Faith is the Formula for Restoration - Part 2 Psalms 126:4-6

**By Alvin C. Romer**

Not to be deterred any longer, Jesus headed to Jairus' house where a great multitude of people had gathered... some were curious (or should I say nosy), some were there to see if this so-called Messiah could deliver the type of miracles that they heard he performs, (these were the naysayers, who ridiculed the faithful), and others were weeping and wailing aligning themselves to Jairus' plight. Upon His arrival assessing the situation, he admonished the crowd that the girl was not dead, but merely asleep. Of course, he had revived her.

**What can we learn from the story of Jairus?** Good, I'm glad you asked that question! Listen to me now...this is the good part. While stationed in Germany during my army days, I purchased a new car, a Mercedes...now in Germany that type of care is not perceived nor is it a reality of a car of distinction as it is here in the USA. Over there it's just an ordinary vehicle. Anyway, that car was my life for it allowed me the means to travel freely without having to take the train. The car was a beauty! It had all the amenities of luxury...but as the years took their toll, stuff began to happen, including an accident that rendered it a semi-total loss. In my mind I thought with more money, I could pull get it back to working order. But that didn't happen. Thankfully the God of perfect vision and unlimited resources doesn't give up so easily on battered and broken people. **Psalms 85** describes people who were perfect candidates for restoration, and the God who is able to restore. Who among you does not from time to time feel battered, bruised and broken? And sometimes it's because of something we've done to ourselves, or from some circumstance that affected our balance. But because God gives us snapshots of His Grace when needed, restoration and forgiveness from us who humbly accept Him are never without hope. This is why she who touched His garment wasn't ignored, and because a Pharisee who mocked him when things were good in his life was able to have his daughter's life restored.

I've given you the story here of how two miraculous situations had bearing on Jesus' ability to make right out of seemingly irreversible odds... an issue of blood, dying, etc. It all hinges on faith. Whenever the Lord admonishes, "Don't be afraid, just believe" we should take heed. Think about any situation you may be in — dire moments, even. The Lord has the temerity of mind to give help along the way, and maybe you are desperately trying to rush time. Is our time and timing the same as how God determines who, what, when, why, and where? Ultimately, He revealed that He can NEVER be too late. Time can't limit what He's able to do and when He chooses to do it, and that's my message to you here. Purpose and perseverance are synonymous. They belong together. For Him to give you time enough to live, even now with all that you're enduring, the purpose is for you to believe that faith is not fallow, and that to stick and stay are part of his eternal plan for you. You must believe without doubt that He is your Savior. But it comes with a price — restorative value only can be redeemed with you believing that He is an on time God. How often do you feel like Jairus, thinking that God was simply too late to deal with your afflictions, not being sympathetic enough to accomplish what you had hoped for? But with God there's no such thing. He's STILL petitioning for you with hands on your shoulders hailing you as daughters of Grace, and sons of destiny. Faith is the formula for restoration, for sure. He's never too late in fulfilling His good and merciful work in your lives. With open arms He welcomes those who turn to Him. And those who do, find safety in His arms. Will that be you?

See [The Light, Volume 12, Issue 2](#) for Part 1 of "A Snapshot of God: How Faith is the Formula for Restoration"

Gospel Pearls



## The Lifeline Romans 10:17 By Sister Fannie Sims

We need to renew our minds daily in God's presence, for I believe that as we hear the thoughts of God, His thinking becomes increasingly contagious. It is so important that we have a relationship with Him. His Word is like a lifeline thrown to a woman who would otherwise drown in the swirling whirlpool of her own thoughts. Peter was so addicted to hearing Jesus speak that when other men walked away, Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

Peter recognized his need to keep hearing the Word of God. Many years before Peter, Job said that he esteemed God's Word more than his necessary for food (see Job 23:12). As for me, God is my counselor. He talks with me about my deepest, darkest issues; He comforts the raging tide of my fears and inhibitions. Where would we be if He would wax silent and cease to guide us through this perilous maze of mental mania? His soft words turn away the wrath of our nagging memories. When He speaks to me, his words are symphonies of enlightenment falling on my heart like soft rain on a tin roof. They give rest and peace.

God's Word will accomplish what it is sent out to do. God says, "I won't stop in the middle of the job. I will not give up on you. I will keep hammering until you are balanced in your thinking and whole in your judgments." The greatest part is, no one would ever believe that you were initially in such a deplorable state! He covers you with His precious blood even while His Word works on you. The benefit is that you are simultaneously privilege with privacy and challenged with change.

In a world where people seem void of commitment and so easily become distracted, it is comforting to know that God won't give up on you. He will preserve and labor with you until His will is accomplished in your life. If anybody ought to praise the Lord, it ought to be those who have deep appreciation for his unending love. It is to them He has spoken His word and changed their thoughts and directions.

Human thoughts are healed by the Word of God. We must, at all cost, maintain an appetite for preaching. Why? "So, then faith [ a changed mind] comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). It amazes secular scholars to see the power of God's Word transforming dysfunctional members of our society into productive parts of our community.

God delivers us (or is in the process of delivering us) while we maintain a veil of secrecy to protect our reputations. The secular scholars would be appalled if they knew how many of us were in serious trouble when we came to our wit's end and submitted to the redemptive work of the Lord. He delivered us from the stress and strain of our crises. His Word gives us the grace to seize the opportunity to escape and go on with our lives!



Truism - an undoubted or self-evident truth

**"YOU CAN'T LISTEN TO ALL KINDS OF  
VOICES AND HEAR GOD TOO."**

**~ PASTOR ERIC H. JONES, JR.**



**THE LIGHT NEWSLETTER  
KOINONIA WORSHIP CENTER & VILLAGE**

4900 W. Hallandale Beach Blvd.  
Pembroke Park, FL 33023

Phone: 954-964-2901  
Fax: 954-964-4401  
E-mail: [The-Light-Koinonia@googlegroups.com](mailto:The-Light-Koinonia@googlegroups.com)  
Visit us at: [www.kwcfi.org](http://www.kwcfi.org)

*Our objective is to provide and distribute quality news and reports on timely issues that relate to spiritual matters pertaining to Koinonia's people and the surrounding community at-large.*

*Pastor Willie Johnson  
Associate Pastor / Editorial Advisor*

*Nicole Minnis  
Director / Editor*

*Deacon Craig Smith  
Assistant Editor*

*Deacon Alvin C. Romer  
Copy Editor / Journalist*

*Sara Snell  
Journalist*

*Gisla Bush  
Journalist*

*Bobby Bush  
Journalist*

*Fannie Sims  
Journalist*

*Dr. Eric H. Jones, Jr.  
Founder / Senior Pastor*

*Pastor James Walden  
Assistant Pastor*

**GET YOUR LAUGH ON**  
COMEDY by Deacon Craig Smith



## Colossians 3:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

"Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others, belong to us as well."  
- Francois-Marie Arouet – Voltaire

We would like to thank the **Audio Visual Ministry – Sound Booth Team** for their faithfulness, obedience and commitment to ministry in providing the audio and video capabilities for our live stream services on Thursday and Sunday – enabling God's word to continue going forth and being proclaimed throughout the world.