

Abigail Buchmann
12th Grade
Zion Lutheran Church – Mitchell, SD

The Strength of God

Right now, people are stressing over a virus that has brought schools to close and cancel activities. America scoffed over a virus that now has taken over and caused 58,392 deaths and counting. As we should be concerned about our loved ones and staying safe, we should also remind ourselves of the love that God bestows upon us. Church services are being canceled, but videos are uploaded so families can still have church with their loved ones. A pandemic is nothing new, but often have people straying away or clinging to God. This pandemic should strengthen our faith and bring people together.

Coronavirus is not the first pandemic to happen, and most likely will not be the last to ever occur. We should use this time wisely and not freak out about going to the store when there clearly is no food shortage. In a world of sin, disease will always be present. Worrying about when we are going to die is not something God wants. When it is our time, we will leave this earth, and we should not fear about where we are going to go. We should trust that God has a plan set in place for us. Loving, trusting, and fearing in God above all else is very important in this time. He laid down his only Son so that we might be saved and live eternally with Him. His love is greater than any earthly matter we struggle with. If someone is scared, comfort them with the loving word of God. Do not push away God in a time like this. Isolating yourself from contact with people is one thing, but do not isolate yourself from God. Staying strong in the Word of God in this time of panic will bring you the peace that you desire. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling," Psalms 46 verses 1-3 says. God wants us to put all our trust in him so that we do not fear what our future has in store. He will keep us safe, and in the end, those who believe will live with Him eternally.

God shows us, even in this fearful time, that we are one with Him. Staying together strong in this time of fear is important. The community of the church is stronger than any pandemic we face. First Corinthians 12:22 states "On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable." The whole church body is unified and works as one. Many different parts serve various purposes to uphold the Word of God, making no one person more important than the other. One person's job does not overtop the others, as each part is of equal importance. We should respect and love others no matter what, as God does to us. The strength

we have together through God is far stronger than the challenges we face. The church is like the parts of the body. Each organ has its own purpose, but all are equally important to living a healthy life. The church is the bride of Christ, and all aspects are equally important. Boasting and being hungry for more power and control is the opposite of what God wants. Sin tries to confuse us and turn us away from the Word. Being sinners, we confuse our pleasures with the will of God. We try to look past what is right and make excuses for our mistakes. The devil relishes when we look away from God in fear of our worldly problems. What we need to realize is that God never looks away from us or shuns us. He sees our struggles and fears, and combats them with love. He made us in His image and gave His only Son to die for us so that all of our sins might be washed away. He made it possible for us to live eternally when we pass away on earth. God is always there in times of struggle, and that is a crucial part in our life when we need to look towards him. The devil has nothing to give compared to what God has done for us. No matter what we face on earth, God will provide and give us his eternal love. His love is far stronger than any problem we face.

References

Bible

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/15/business/coronavirus-food-shortages.html>