

Weekly Health Update and Bible Truth from Pastor Jim – Weekend, September 19 & 20, 2020

Dear Friends and Family:

This week is an easy week. Post-Op appointment with my urologist, and he says everything is as expected. I have not yet experienced the full benefit of the surgery, but he says that will take time. Our bodies have to adjust to the new normal. Like that doesn't sound familiar, right? This year has been full of new normals, uncomfortable and unfamiliar ones. And if you are like me, you've wondered what God is doing in this season. Lately, life has felt hard and ever-changing. There is a fear inside many of us as we wonder if life will ever feel normal again and I crave that which feels familiar.

I'll be honest. The circumstances, pain, loss and disorder our world has experienced in recent months have left me feeling like it's all exceeding the plan of God's goodness. I know this isn't true, and I'm sure you do, too. But we often find ourselves (falsely) believing that *what we see is what we should feel*. So, when we see darkness, we feel darkness. When we see gloom, and we feel gloom. When we see hopelessness, we feel hopeless.

The book of Hebrews was written to be a source of encouragement for the Jews in Jerusalem who experienced persecution for their belief in God. Their faith had been flipped upside down, and nothing felt normal to them either. They were craving God's familiar faithfulness, and the writer of this verse was trying to remind them of this sacred place that never leaves us. Hebrews 10:23 declares for our lives right now: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." Tucked in this verse is the promise of God's normal and familiar faithfulness — both then and today.

Seasons may come and season may go, but His faithfulness remains. Life will twist and turn, but we can always see His familiar faithfulness if we decide to look for it. We will question and wonder, but our doubts don't change His faithfulness — they simply try to cover it up.

God cannot lie, He never changes His mind, He never forgets His Word, and He has never failed anyone with the fulfillment of His promises. Jesus' death and resurrection never stop existing. It's up to us to look for the faithfulness of God in seasons that feel uncomfortable, unfamiliar, and ever-changing.

There is a fresh wind of grace flowing into our lives today through the Holy Spirit. It's not stale, old or even normal. But it is familiar. And as we worship, praise and declare His faithfulness over our lives, that wind will feel stronger and stronger.

Every day let's be expectant and hopeful there's something new we will experience with God. Because I am changing, shifting, growing, maturing and becoming more like Him each day, I am willing to admit my own shortcomings with these faith struggles. As I do, I can rise up and become a little stronger, knowing how much I need God.

Thankfully, the writer of Hebrews was willing to be vulnerable with us about how much we need to be reminded of God's faithfulness. The willingness to pen words that speak faith to our spirits today is something we can hold on to. Jesus is worth all our trust and devotion to stir the faithfulness of Him every chance we get.

Pastor Jim

