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Pastor's Corner

God Is Not Through with Me Yet

People are feeling overwhelmed by the tensions of life and living. The kinds of stress and strain that people are feeling has not been felt before. It seems like we are being consumed by the circumstances we find ourselves in. It appears as though we have no control over the situation. The only thing we know is stuff is happening to us and we don't know what to do. I'm having trouble thinking. I don't understand it, I can't figure things out right now. What am I going to do? I don't know what to do.

Kids want to go back to school but it isn't safe. People must work, but again, it's not safe. One group of scientists say one thing; others are saying something different. What am I supposed to do? Who am I supposed to believe? I want to live. How am I supposed to make a decision? I really don't know what to do. The Word of God tells us in **Psalm 46:9-10 "The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble."** God knows and God cares. God is our stronghold and our refuge.

We are living in times of oppression; in times of confusion and chaos. The pressures of living out each day is more than many can

bear. Unfortunately, many feel threatened. These people are not sure what God says about the protection our God provides. They are not or they do not know they are loved and it is this isolation that wears them down and out. God's word tells us in **Psalm 34:10 "….those who seek the Lord lack no good thing." Isaiah 26:3-4 tells us "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting Rock."** Trust in the love, movement and activity of God is needed now more than ever.

A story is told of a Child of God who was overwhelmed by the number of afflictions that seem to come her way. As she walked past a vineyard during the fall of the year, she noticed its untrimmed appearance and the abundance of leaves still on the vines. The ground was filled with all kinds of weeds and grass. The vineyard looked as though no one was caring about it. While she thought about the sight, the Master Gardner spoke a message to her that she now shares with the world. The message was this: "My dear child, are you questioning the number of trials in our life? Remember the vineyard and learn from it. The gardener stops pruning and trimming or weeding the soil because they expect nothing from the vine during that season. S/He leaves it alone, because its fruitfulness is gone, and further effort now would yield no profit."

In the same way, God is not finished with us yet. God permits the trials in our lives for our growth. God is not indifferent to the overwhelming pressure we experience. It is important to know that God is with us throughout the each trial, throughout the dark times as well. It may be seem like God is not around, when we don't see God's movement. But know that God is there. Know that the one who keeps us safe is ever present. If God were not there, the darkness would never end. The joy that comes in the morning would never arrive.

It is the word of God that we must learn to trust in - not what we feel; not in what we think; not the politicized propaganda from the government. We must trust in God. God performs not according to our understanding, but God's alone. **Isaiah 55:8-9** speaks with clarity about our only need is that we embrace it **"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."**

There will always be overwhelming circumstances that will come our way. We must know and trust God is there. It matters not the time or the hour. It does not matter what the circumstance - God is there. God has always been there; God will always be there.

God bless and remain safe,