

# ***Fear or Faith?***

## ***Panic or Peace? Crazy or Calm?***

So are our choices just that simple? Some folks are certainly in pure panic mode:

- Many have substituted “Coronavirus Madness” for college basketball’s “March Madness;
- People are grabbing all the canned veggies they can load into their carts;
- Some are frantic now they are unable to sit in McDonalds to keep up their body’s normal grease level; and
- Toilet paper is disappearing from store shelves in huge quantities! Sigh.

What are people of faith supposed to do? Ignore reality? React like the mobs in so many stores?

How about we do what God’s Word says: *Live by FAITH, not by SIGHT.*

**SIGHT.** It is probably not the end of the world. We see that there is a disease going around, which appears to be more virulent than the round of flu we had last year. But reports from reliable medical authorities indicate that most people who contract this virus either have no symptoms or recover shortly. It can be dangerous, even life-threatening, for some who have a compromised immune system – especially “the elderly.”

Some people also think they see conspiracies all over the place – dark plots that involve China, Iran, American politicians, billionaires, etc. Maybe so, maybe not.

I can see that we **ARE** in a temporary zone of what I’m calling “Partial Martial Law” – where our activities are being limited by

‘authorities.’ Many schools and restaurants are closed. A number of travel modes and destinations are restricted.

**FAITH.** So what is the Faith response? The one that’s not just reacting to what we see?

First of all, we are believers in Christ, which means we are to walk by faith. It means our ultimate trust is in the Lord to see us through.

It also means we are to have some wisdom – sanctified common sense about how we live in this world. With our feet firmly planted in reality.

So we can choose to do more than just sit around, shuddering in lonely terror. We can take some extra time with family or friends – if not in person, at least on the phone. We can pray. Read some Scripture (perhaps the Psalms or any of the four Gospels). Read a book. Watch some old westerns on tv. We may also discover we are able to survive without celebrities and professional sports.

And those with a computer or ‘fancy phone’ can stay connected with some encouragement from one another and from us here at Bethlehem’s ‘command central.’ Our Church’s website and our FaceBook page are a couple of the resources we intend to make available to you and to anyone else we can touch with God’s Truth & Grace.

For now, just remember who you are – someone loved by the Lord; and remember WHOSE you are – in Christ you are one of His.

Grace & Peace to you,  
In Jesus, **Dr. T**