

YOUR HEART'S RESPONSE TO A GLOBAL CRISIS

(2 Chronicles 20:9)

Every crisis must cause us to set our heart right before the Lord (Deut. 8:2; Jer. 17:10; Rev. 2:23). It is one thing to respond to this coronavirus crisis with cleansed and washed hands. It's another thing to respond to this global pandemic with God-pleasing dispositions of a trusting heart. Reflecting from Jehoshaphat's response to a national crisis, let's consider these four God-honoring heart attitudes that must characterize our response to this global crisis.

- 1. Surrender your _____ to God in prayer.***
When King Jehoshaphat was confronted with their own national emergency, he was filled with fear and his fear drove him to cry out to God in prayer. In their case, the crisis at hand was the threat of massive death and destruction of their land Judah through military invasion (2 Chron. 20:1-3). All of us could identify with the fear in the heart of Jehoshaphat amidst an unsettling crisis. Such fear reveals our own human frailty and helplessness, reminding us that we are not ultimately in control of our lives (2 Chron. 20:6,12; Psalm 103:15-16). In response to this recent pandemic, we must surrender our fears to God through humble and earnest prayer (2 Chron. 20:9). We must go to the panic room of prayer and seek the help of God who alone is sovereign over every disease and disaster (Exod. 15:26; Matt. 9:35; Phil. 4:6-7).
 - 2. Seek to _____ God faithfully in the face of calamity.***
Jehoshaphat not only led the people of Judah in fervent prayer but also in faithful worship of God (2 Chron. 20:18-19; 6:28-31). God's people respond to every calamity with a worshipping heart. Worship is ascribing to God His supreme worth, value and majesty. In the face of any crisis, we must focus on the greatness and glory of God who is our safest refuge and strongest fortress (Job 1:20-21; Dan. 3:16-18; Acts 16:25-26; Psalm 91:2-4).
 - 3. Stand secure in the _____ of God.***
Jehoshaphat found his ultimate security, not in the might of his own army nor in the ingenuity of his administrative skills. He even confessed to God that he and the entire nation were clueless and powerless as they dealt with their national crisis (2 Chron. 20:12). Hence, the Lord graciously intervened by sending a prophet to encourage the entire people of Judah to place their ultimate confidence and security upon the Lord and His saving power (2 Chron. 20:9,15-17). In the same way, we who are in Christ must stand secure in our Lord Jesus' saving victory over Satan and His triumphant conquest of death (Heb. 2:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:55-57; Phil. 1:21).
 - 4. Spread the _____ for the sake of the gospel.***
In the face of any crisis, God's people always cling to the steadfast love of God which endures forever (2 Chron. 20:21). As the church of our Lord Jesus Christ, now is the time for us to shine as lights of the world and spread the gospel of Christ's saving love to this distressed world in need of God's redeeming grace (Matt. 5:14-16).
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