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The voice of those who escaped from the iron curtain

Need Prayer? Call us at 530-620-2717

Dear Partners, September, 2020

Wow friends! Like many of you, we can't believe it's September already and we're entering the fall season. Where has this year gone? In March we were told "15 days to slow the spread" and here we are six months later still dealing with the effects of the pandemic. We thought by now kids would be back in school enjoying a normal school year, but instead, kids are being kept at home and left learning from a computer while servers crash and frustrations build. We thought churches would be able to gather freely without restrictions and restaurants would open at full capacity, not just 25% outdoors. We thought we would be able to travel on an airplane without wearing masks and visit places abroad without being banned or having to guarantine. No one could have predicted the chaos, violence and looting in our major cities that followed the pandemic. But here we are. Many of us had our own issues to deal with prior to the pandemic. Many of you might have been believing God for a higher paying job, but now think, "How will I ever get one now?" Some of us have been believing God for an increase in our business, but question, "How can that ever happen when the business was forced to shut down?" Many of you have been believing God for a spouse, but now you can't meet anyone during a lockdown! WHAT WE NEED TO REMEMBER IS WHAT IS CURRENTLY HAPPENING IN OUR LIVES AND THE PROMISES THAT GOD HAS FOR US, WILL BE COMPLETED AND BROUGHT TO FRUITION!

But, how much longer do we have to wait? Patient endurance is key in the waiting period.

Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that He has promised. Hebrews 10:36 NLT

Just know, God will use the things you are going through at this moment to bring glory to His name, if you will allow Him. He is still using you in the waiting. John has been waiting to travel overseas for months now. He thought by now he would have already taken several trips this year for the spreading of the Gospel to those who are hungry for it, yet it still hasn't happened. But you know what? God has been using John's Facebook live videos for His glory. Thousands of people tune in several times a week to feed on the Word of God! They are getting healed, delivered and set free from these live videos and it would have never happened if John was traveling abroad.

How do we stay patient and steadfast when things aren't going the way we planned? We continue feeding our spirit man with the Word. We keep doing what we've been doing by meditating on the promises in the Word because they *belong* to us. We don't take matters into our own hands. When we do this, oftentimes we don't feel peace. It's important to be still and not try to force things. Our timing may not be God's timing. During this period of waiting in our lives we have to be still and listen to Him. It's usually a still small voice or a Word that pops up while we're reading the Word. One of the biggest hindrances in our lives is **our own flesh.** How does the waiting period affect your emotions? Do you wallow in self pity and become tempted to give in because things are difficult? Rather than being dominated by negative emotions and the thoughts that float around in your mind, you must be dominated by the Word of God. The mind needs to be focused on the promises in the Word, so that you *will be able* to refuse anything that isn't in line with the Word. You literally have to reject everything else. Your flesh may tell you that there's no chance you'll make it through. Your flesh will try to tell you that you should give up now because there's

no hope for you. But you must take command of your flesh and bring it into submission to the Word of God and refuse to accept what you see in the natural (<u>2 Corinthians 10:3-6</u>).

The Apostle Paul is one of the greatest examples of patient endurance and crucifying the flesh. Many people don't know the history behind the great apostle Paul's imprisonment while he wrote the book of Philippians. Paul was incarcerated in one of the worst prisons in the entire Roman empire. This was a place that was cold and damp and completely void of light. The prisoners' limbs were forced into restrictive chains and they were kept in an underground location where the main sewage system ran through. Imagine for a moment, the Apostle Paul was imprisoned in chains without the use of his hands and feet in a smelly, putrid underground cell where he was waist-high in sewage and yet he wrote the word "rejoice or joy" 19 times in the book of Philippians? Nineteen times in just four short chapters! Our problems seem miniscule and insignificant compared to The Apostle Paul's, and yet, the entire book of Philippians is dedicated to encouraging the body of Christ to rejoice and be filled with God's peace at the same time (Phil 4:6-7). Apostle Paul had every reason (logically speaking) to complain or throw in the towel, but instead he encourages us to do all these things without grumbling, complaining, questioning or doubting all while crucifying our flesh (Phil 2:14 AMP).

God always finishes what He starts (Phil 1:6). That is a promise. When God starts something in our lives, He will never leave it unfinished. So, it's up to us to refuse to give in when things get hard or hopeless. Here at JMM, we are reminded of the same thing. One of our major goals this year for the Ministry is to believe God for updated television equipment. We're almost there, but we're still trusting God that the rest of the finances will come in. Even though our 2020 travel plans were halted due to the corona crises, we still have peace knowing that the Lord will bring to fruition every promise that God has for our Ministry and family. We encourage you to do the same. You are in our prayers daily! Please don't hesitate to contact our Ministry via Facebook, email or a phone call, so we can encourage you in prayer. Your situation may seem hopeless, but God is faithful!

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12 When you remain patient and steadfast in trials and allow the joy of the Lord to overtake you, the peace of God will fall on you. This isn't a peace you can find in the world. It isn't a peace that anyone else but Jesus can give. It is a supernatural peace that is only found in Him and His Word. It will guard your heart and your mind so you can continue to fight the good fight and finish your race in victory (2 Timothy 4:7)!

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the <u>peace of God</u>, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6-7 NKJV

We love you and pray for you always!

-John & Alexandra