

What is God Up to During this Pandemic Panic? How do we walk by faith, and have wisdom in this hour?



While the world is in a panic we are to remain calm. The word “panic” means, *“sudden uncontrollable fear or anxiety, often causing wildly unthinking behavior”*. The word “calm” means, *“the absence of confrontational activity, to be pleasantly free from nervousness, fear or other strong emotions”*.

This is not the time to imitate the reactions around us without careful and prayerful thought. Do not run out to buy-up all the toilet paper because that’s what your neighbor is doing. Wisdom, however, would tell you to make sure you have enough toilet paper in the house to last you longer than normal because everyone is in a panic.

Fear can also sound like, *“I am not going to take any precautions because I walk by faith and not by sight and no one is going to tell me what to do”*. Or it can sound like this, *“all this is just political manipulation and no one is going to fool me”*. To have faith does not mean you make wild, not thought out decisions to prove a point. It is very possible the panic has been incited on purpose and maybe even the infection released as a weapon, but just because you know why this disease is happening does not mean it won’t make you sick. There is no need to be a hero.

If you have any symptoms or your children have any symptoms, ***even if it is just the common cold***, please be gracious to those around you who are more susceptible to infection and please stay home. We want to bring a calming atmosphere to those who are fearful, not a threat. The scriptures teach us in Romans 14:19 *“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”* Even though we may not be afraid, and shouldn’t be, does not give us a license to create fear in others by our behavior. This is how we walk in wisdom, releasing calmness to those who are afraid. Again, if you are sick please stay home!

To walk by faith and wisdom in this time of panic and peril requires us to spend more time in God’s word and in prayer with other believers. This is a time to ask “What now, God”? We should not immerse ourselves in the media presentation of our situation more than we are immersing ourselves in God’s word. Now is the time to hear from God, to lift up our eyes and see what the Lord is doing for us in this hour.

Here is what I am seeing the Lord do. We have been announcing for two years that we were coming into “The Watch (shamar) of the Lord”! This panic of a pandemic is a perfect opportunity to stand still, take our position and watch the salvation of the Lord. This was our scripture during the Decade of the Seer. Now let’s see what God is doing!

We have been discussing since the first of the year that we need to focus on building our relationships with each other. We even felt like God wanted us to dedicate the whole month of March to this effort, so we have been preparing to have small group sessions during our gathering on Sunday’s this month. God is just allowing us an even better opportunity to fellowship by requiring us to move our Sunday Gatherings to in-home groups. I love this opportunity and want us to take full advantage of this special time we have to develop our relationships. This is going to be great!

Do not be discouraged or fearful. Do not panic or incite panic by merely reacting to the situation. But instead, remain calm, pray, and focus on your relationships. If you need to remain home, then build your relationship with God by increasing your devotion time. Or build your relationship with your family by playing games together, have family dinners and take advantage of the down time. If you are healthy and are able to be out, then reach-out to someone you know who is elderly and offer to go to the store for them. Make sure you are attending the small group closest to you on Sunday’s. Lets build relationships while this disease is forcing us to slow down and eliminate things from our hectic schedules. This is how we can position ourselves to see what God is doing. This is how we walk by faith and not by sight. This is how we walk in wisdom not fear. This how God will cause this panic to work to our advantage. *“God causes all things to work together for our good, to those who are called according to His purpose”*. Make sure you are responding to God’s purposes in this time.