



**Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.**

**Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

**- James 1 : 2 - 4**

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Dear 55Alive! friends –

Well, even though Easter was different from any Easter that we've experienced, we can rejoice that God is still on his throne and that He loves us with an everlasting love!! Those are things we can count on, as believers! I hope you were able to access our Easter worship service through [birchman.org](http://birchman.org) OR the Birchman page on Facebook. The guest singer, Christy Nockles, sang beautifully and led us in worship and praise; then Bro. Bob brought a very concise and effective Easter message. Perhaps my favorite part of the service was the video featuring our missionaries – it was special!!

Even amid all the challenges we face in our country (and our world) there is reason for us to be positive! There are many people turning to Christ as the only hope and for that we can rejoice. We need to continue to pray for a sweeping revival in our city, our state, the U.S. and in our world. Pray that multitudes will come to a saving knowledge of Christ and that they will begin to effectively live for Christ!

Please remember that better days are coming!! Please continue to pray!! – Bro. Phil

## **SUNDAY, April 19**

Don't neglect this opportunity to worship and praise the Lord on Sunday!! Join our service online at [birchman.org](http://birchman.org) OR on Facebook – it is a special time!

*Here are some verses and special words to encourage our hearts this week:*

## **Monday, April 20**

Proverbs 18:10:

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.”

John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

***"Always, everywhere God is present, and always He seeks to discover Himself to each one"***

- A.W.Tozer

## **Tuesday, April 21**

Lamentations 3:22-23:

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

2 Cor. 12:9-10:

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

***"God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile"*** - Max Lucado

## **Wednesday, April 22**

Psalm 118:14-16:

“The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: ‘The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!’”

1 Peter: 4: 12-13

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.”

**"God will meet you where you are in order to take you where He wants you to go."** - Tony Evans

### **Thursday, April 23**

Deuteronomy 31:6:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."

Matthew 6:26:

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

***"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations."*** - Chuck Swindoll

### **Friday, April 24**

Psalms 40:1-3

“I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire. He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him.”

Romans 8:35

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?”

***"Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter."*** - Francis Chan

### **Saturday, April 25**

Habakkuk 3:17-18

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,

though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

*"The greater your knowledge of the goodness and grace of God on your life, the more likely you are to praise Him in the storm."* - Matt Chandler

### Some closing words from PJ!

Remember the acronyms that we are focusing on! The first from Max Lucado tells us that we need to stay CALM:

**C**elebrate God

**A**sk God for help

**L**eave the problem with God

**M**editate on good things

The second is on I “adapted” from the Blue Zones which can help us to stay SANE in difficult days:

**S**cripture – be in God’s Word DAILY! First thing each day!!

**A**ctive – be physically active. Don’t be a couch potato!!

**N**eighborly – CALL someone! It will brighten their day AND yours!

**E**nter God’s presence many times daily. God is still in control!!

OKAY – here is the THIRD acronym that I received from a very sweet friend who doesn't want to be identified. We need to **PERC** each day (percolate) to be effective and grow:

**P**ray each day for your family, friends and our leaders!

**E**xercise DAILY! You have time and it will rejuvenate you in many ways!

**R**ead a LOT! Turn off the TV and read your Bible! “When I get time...” books!!

**C**all someone – DON'T WAIT TO BE CALLED!! Call someone who NEEDS a touch!

We need to be careful even though things are getting better! Use discretion and common sense as the restrictions loosen. It will be important for us to stay **SANE** and **CALM** as we **PERC** along each day honoring the Lord!! Bro. Phil