

March 15, 2020
How To Respond In Difficult Times

1. We are to activate our faith during stress, difficulties, anxiety and fears. 2 Thessalonians 3:16 NLT

A. It begins with putting your faith in Christ.

John 3:16 NLT *"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

Romans 10:9 *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

B. It grows through reading, studying and living out the Bible.

Romans 10:17 NASB *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

C. It means making a decision to trust.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT) *Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*

Psalms 56:3 *When I am afraid I will trust in you.*

D. It means being prepared with a deescalating verse or phrase.

2 Timothy 2:7 KJ *For God has not given me a spirit of fear; but of power and love and a sound mind.*

2. We are to demonstrate our faith through wisdom.
Faith does not diminish wisdom, faith and wisdom are deeply connected.

James 1:3-6 NIV

Wisdom - knowing all the counsel of God, discerning, and applying it to the situations we face.

Proverbs 11:14 NLT *Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers.*

Wise practical ways to minimize the virus and protect the vulnerable.

1. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.
2. Minimize physical contact, greet with a smile and hands in the air hello or a Love Sign.
3. If you gather in groups, wash your hands upon arriving, if it's your home have paper napkins in the bathroom rather than towels for people to dry their hands.
4. Wash your hands upon leaving a home.
5. If it is your home, disinfect the doorknobs etc.
6. If you have a cough, wear a mask.
7. If you are sick or show any signs of illness, stay home.
8. Use the Center for Disease Control's web site for any information on the disease. <https://www.cdc.gov>

3. Faith is shown through practical acts of love.

Titus 3:14 NASB *Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

Acts 4:34 "... there were no needy persons among them."

1. Use our web site, social media and technology to connect.
2. If you are in a Community Group, mail and text the people in your group; if not, connect with those closest to you.
3. Be on the lookout for needs of others. Show practical love to those around you.
4. Be prepared for a call from Viewpoint to meet the pressing needs we find (share yours as well).
5. Be sensitive to those who might be vulnerable. You and I might get the virus and have it affect us minimally, but the vulnerable might not be as fortunate.

Andy Crouch, Culture Making <https://journal.praxislabs.org/love-in-the-time-of-coronavirus-26aaeb0396e3>