

COVID CONFUSION by Mick Chase

Greetings again to my fellow believers at Union and to anyone who happens to read this message. Let us put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...and whatever we do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Col. 3:12-17.

The Covid thing goes on and on and still we wonder how it will play out or maybe end. The problem being that one of the main scenarios is that there is no real end to this pandemic. Pandora's box has been opened and there is no going back to the way things were.

For sure and for certain I do get antsy from time to time and I admit to being unsettled in my mind due to this undercurrent or background of fear and uncertainty pervading the very fabric of our lives. I continually asked God for wisdom and understanding. I ask God to keep me from evil and from being double-minded. Scripture clearly declares this in the book of James. James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The enemy of our souls certainly has ramped up fear so as to insert it into our lives in an intrusive, obvious, invasive, blatant ugliness right in our face, so to speak. As long as we pay undue attention to it, we fall under its power to dictate our very thoughts and actions. We teeter on the brink of double-mindedness where we find ourselves as a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind, on the edge of despair.

So...what can I do?

Actually, what I do is stop. Yes, stop. And if the cacophony of fear is still so loud that I seem unable to just shut it off, I call (loudly at times) out to God, asking Him to lead my heart and mind. Lead me oh Lord to that place beside the still waters and green pastures. Take me into Your presence where there is peace and wisdom and understanding.

One thing you can be sure of, where fear rules, its close kin, confusion, also abides. Confusion really hopes to thrust us into that country of chaos, where nothing is clear or certain, a place where one seeks to find our footing on shifting sand. Here, we face the danger of fooling ourselves.

And so, I stop...and be still...and then God's presence can become real. I realize that it has been with me all along...until I became distracted. I am reminded that, our God is not the author of confusion but of peace as in all the churches of the saints. 1 Cor. 14:33.

It is no wonder that fear and confusion are so loud a voice to our ears in the midst of this pandemic. Just turn on the television, or listen to what folks are saying. Even though the most brilliant minds in science and medicine are working day and night, they are dealing with the unknown, a thing we haven't faced before. They struggle to discover answers, only to find more questions.

The blame game...Isolation...Conflicting reports...When will this end? Is our economy tanking? What if I get this virus? When can I go back to work? What about these bills? What about testing? What will flu season be like? Where do I find toilet paper? Yes, folks, confusion is getting up a head of steam.

Just listing all that stuff almost gives me a headache. Almost causes me to feel the grip of confusion in my mind. I can almost feel those walls closing in. The whisper of despair in my ear grows louder as I pay attention and take council with fear. The massive flood of information is in conflict with itself as confusion hopes to bring about chaos. Here is where anger flares to further cloud our daily journey in Christ. Anger demands answers to this largely unknown experience which afflicts this whole plant. Where is a path that will lead us through this minefield?

Scripture speaks to us about that very path. Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Yes, the word of truth will, indeed, lead us to sanity, to faith and not fear. We are not guaranteed to know to our satisfaction every detail. If that is our criteria, our demand, then we become prey and we will surely fall.

Colossians 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him. He will light and make clear the true path before your feet. Verse 8 goes on to warn, beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

We see in 2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind. So, this makes it clear that when doubts and fear assault me and when confusion lurks and stalks me, that the spirit of those things is not from God. Reject them and call out to God!

One of the things that really helps me maintain my focus is music. Especially music of praise and worship to God. He has provided this for our benefit to help us

remain strong. To spend time in His presence. To come to our rescue when hard pressed. And to give us a sense of our eternal destiny as can be seen in Ephesians 2:6,7 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the Heavenly Realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. The very triumph and glory of this word from my God will ever help me soar on wings like eagles!

Back when we had a contemporary service and praise team at Union there was a praise song by Hillsong United that we sang quite often. This song speaks to my heart for this time. You can listen to it on your computer if you will. I find it an appropriate close to this message.

“Came to My Rescue”

Falling on my knees in worship
Giving all I am to seek Your face
Lord all I am is Yours

My whole life I place in Your hands
God of mercy humbled I bow down
In Your presence at Your throne

Chorus:

I called, You answered
And You came to my rescue and I
I want to be where you are

Bridge:

In my life, be listed high
In our world, be lifted high
In our love, be lifted high