

LETS LOOK AT 7 KEYS: -that could help us overcome this Virus and even if the virus is prevalent -how to live in peace and feel protected and provided.

FIRST KEY - PRAYER

1) PRAYER is one of the keys that God has given to overcome everything -including the Covid virus -
Jeremiah 33:3_ Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

100'S and 1000'S of prayers and in fact fasting prayers are being offered in our Church in Churches, Bible study groups around the world.

BUT THESE PRAYERS ARE NOT BEING HEARD OR ANSWERED.

•PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED WHEN WE OBEY, LOVE THE LORD AND PUT HIM FIRST.

•Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you- Matthew 6:33 -But are we seeking the kingdom of God or the kingdom of our own household.

A) We do not forgive –Matthew 6:9-12. For it is clear we are forgiven as we forgive others.

B)Do we bless, pray and go out of our way with people we get offended , who despitefully treat you or damage you? Luke 6:28

C) When we fall into all kinds of temptations and sin -do we repent-Galatians 5: 19-21

Repentance is not remorse or sorrow-it's a 180 degree turning away from what you were engaged in as sin- This is a Godly or spiritual transformation and cannot be done in the flesh-You need the Holy Spirit to work with your spirit.

WITHOUT REPENTANCE THERE IS NO FORGIVNESS FROM GOD- Acts 3:19 “Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away

SECOND KEY IS: SUBMITTING TO AUTHORITY

Luke 20:25 So Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s

- Jesus told the disciples and the synagogue -taking a gold coin that was used at that time in the Jewish community- it had the emperors image on one side of the coin- Jesus said -give un to Rome what you have to give Rome and give un to God what you have to give God.

- With the challenge of the Covid virus – one side of the coin is the Govt regulations/ vaccine /booster/ restrictions and lockdowns.

Whether these requirements are valid, serve a purpose is not a debate I want to enter this evening-What is fundamental is – these are imposed by the govt and the Bible tells us we are to submit to Authority.

Romans 13: 1-3 READS: Every person must submit to and support the authorities over him. For there is no authority in the universe except by God’s appointment. -which means that every authority that exists is instituted by God

•So, resisting any authority is resisting the divine order of God. Which results in severe consequences.

•Do we all readily submit to authorities, respect them and pray for them?

Who are those in authority -the government – parents – Teachers -pastors-doctors - policemen- etc

Submitting is obedience and obedience is an act of worship. When we do not submit to our authorities, we really are violating worshipping the Lord- Have you thought about this on these lines .?

THIRD KEY IS: FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD

In this Covid challenge, turmoil and life turning upside down- How many of us -really trust God will see us through/ protect us, provide for us, defend us, heal us, restore us and really have nothing to fear? .

In time of perplexity and dreadful TV news and government restrictions and lockdowns -do we rush to the telephone to pass this fear and anxiety to someone else or take your Bible and read His word for and strengthen yourself with numerous promises for times like this and be sure and sure We are His children and He is the God of His pasture.

When perplexed don't get excited or allow yourself in fear or anger- **immediately picture Jesus as Shephard" John 10:1-18** He gives us the assurance He is the Shephard. What does a Shephard do?

- All around him are sheep, or goats or cows. He is holding a staff and while gazing tenderly all around him -he is also protectively inspecting and looking at every animal under his care.

- Suddenly one sheep or goat or cow seems to have wandered away-he leaves the 99 animals and goes to that extra mile, finds it and brings them back to the fold.

- Consider yourself one of the sheep or even a sheep that has wandered away-he will never leave you or forsake you. - Deuteronomy 31:8

- The question is -do you really believe this? Have utmost faith He is holding you in the palm of His hand and that every hair you have is numbered?

THE 4TH KEY IS :LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR OR LIVE FOR OTHERS – THIS IS THE SECOND COMMANDMENT.

- Compared to all these years /more and more specially since the Covid virus-people /even Christians have become selfish, its all about themselves, their spouses, children, and personal concerns that seem to be all consuming.

- Look at the scramble at the supermarkets /the bare shelves at times? People rushing to grab extraordinary proportions and quantities of groceries, toilet rolls – and one would wonder do they even give one thought that the person behind them has one grocery item to also take home and bless his family.

- When we disregard /violate this 2nd commandment given by God -love your neighbour as yourself- when we disobey this very commandment God gave for the good things He had in mind for each of us – do we have any hope of finding favour with God? Or have our prayers heard?

- The plague seems to be going on and on and let's hope we don't become like the Egyptians with Pharaohs disobedience and having to face plague after plague.

THE FIFTH KEY IS : KEEP YOUR SOUL HEALTHY

When we allow emotions of anger, fear, anxiety, depression etc to consume our souls – soul wounds are created due to these emotions. The soul wounds create a spiritual pus which then oozes into the body realm through the central nervous system and the immune system.

When the soul is toxic with unaddressed emotions-it is prone to affect the immune system which become weak and more prone to the Corona virus entering via the weak immune system- So keep your soul healthy.

THE SIXTH KEY IS - BEING HUMBLE

Over the years we have all become puffed up with our own success, IT expertise and ,other skills and fantastic jobs we hold. We own mansions and the latest cars and while that is perfectly alright-

We forget everything we have is from God, His blessing, and His providence. He created us in our mother's womb with the purpose to love and serve Him. We are created for his pleasure.

Revelation 4:11 declares, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast **created** all things, and for Thy **pleasure** they are, and were, **created**

•**The proud and the boastful have no place in the kingdom of God.**

Psalm 51:17 **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;** a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

Let's be humble -Every day die unto yourselves and rise in Him/ His power, His presence and anointing. His grace will operate in and through us to bless us and make us a blessing to others.

THE SEVENTH KEY IS THE BLOOD OF JESUS:-

HOW MANY OIF YOU BELIEVE THAT THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE WEAPON/SPIRITUL WEAPON GOD HAVE EACH ONE OF US THROUGHOUT THE GENERATION. The blood is ultimate love and power of God given to each one of us to be overcomers.

The blood of Jesus provides:

- 1) Redemption – Ephesians 1:7
- 2) Fellowship with God- Hebrews 10:10
- 3) Healing – Isaiah 53:5
- 4) Protection – Exodus 12:13
- 5) Authority over the devil – Revelation 12:11

Lets pray now that we repent of the way we have given in to fear, anger, anxiety and selfishness- claim Hebrews 4:16 to come un to God to forgive us and lead us and anoint us afresh to be overcomers.