

Prayer Focus This Week

What Will We Allow

Whether we understand it or not, and whether we like it or not, God has allowed the Coronavirus to exist; it certainly took the world by surprise, but not God; He knew it was coming. Most of us are familiar with Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (NIV)

We tend to miss what verse 10 right before this says: "This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfil my gracious promise to bring you back to this place." God's people were being punished for their disobedience, and were in captivity to the Babylonians for **seventy years** before they realized God's promise to bless and prosper them! Heard someone say the other day God has put us in "time out" for a season until we repent.

One thing we must remember - just like God has **good** plans for us once our "captivity" to this disease is lifted, Satan has **evil** plans to destroy us during this troubling time. He wants us to doubt God and be angry at Him, he wants to bring dissension and division wherever he can, he wants us to be anxious, fearful, greedy, spiteful - just listen to the news.

Every day, in every situation, we need to decide what, or better yet **who**, we will allow to control our lives and our emotions. God wants to use this time for us to draw near to Him, in prayer, reading and **feeding** on His word, and through praise and worship. He wants this time to be used to bring families closer together, pulling down walls we have erected within our family relationships, while repairing the outer walls of our "compound" where we've allowed the enemy to break through and do damage in our families.

In the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln was in anguish over the ravages of the war, saying we had forgotten God, and declaring March 30, 1863 a "National Fast Day," a day he said "...to humble ourselves, confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness." President Trump called for a national day of prayer on March 15, but right now EVERY day should be a day of prayer for all of us! EVERY day we should be praying for everyone everywhere on the front lines of this battle, and for the rest of us in the trenches as well.

Natalie Grant just came out with a powerful new song called "My Weapon." The weapon she is talking about is God's Presence. When fears and uncertainties begin to overwhelm you, retreat into His Presence, and **allow** Him to comfort and strengthen you.

