

“God is love”

This is what John tells us in 1 John 4:8b. I don't know about you, but it's hard for me to see God's love in the midst of all the tragic things going on in the world right now; the war in Ukraine, mass shootings, police violence, battles over abortion and so many marginal groups demanding to be heard and demanding their rights....Argh! It is so depressing, and that's what the enemy wants us to do - focus on the negative.

I have been so blessed these last couple of weeks to hear some really good, positive stories, both on network news shows and news magazines. One of the best ones was the story about Damar Hamlin's heart attack, seeing everyone kneeling on the field praying for him, and even an ESPN announcer, praying for him on a live TV broadcast! And how about Hamlin wanting to raise \$2500 for toys for kids, which the last I've heard blossomed to \$9 MILLION dollars on a Go Fund Me page!

Then there was the story about a 5th grade class at Glen Lake Elementary School who were disturbed that their fellow students with physical disabilities had no adaptive playground equipment, which prevented them from participating in playground activities. So they put their collective heads together to see what they could do to raise some money, finding out it would cost \$300K! Undeterred, in a matter of months, they raised the \$300K and the equipment was purchased!

Woo Hoo! That's our God! I've seen numerous other stories where an individual or a group reached out to help someone, and most of them brought me to tears, because I was seeing our God working His love through the hearts of ordinary people. I guess what struck me was - I'm sure not all of the people who are reaching out to help others are Christians, but EVERY act of kindness comes from a heart of LOVE and compassion, and if God IS love, then it's ALL from God!

Satan is the exact opposite of God, which means that satan is HATE! We can trace all of the hateful talk and actions back to satan, who incites people (even Christians sometimes) to say and do evil things, and unfortunately, this is what grabs the headlines in our daily news shows, and what we are encouraged to keep our focus on. I believe God wants to remind us of what 2 Corinthians 4:18 says: *“So we fix our eyes (and our thoughts) not on what is seen, but on what is unseen (and mostly never reported on). For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*

God is still on the Throne! Jesus is still the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Alpha and Omega! So...*“Let us fix our eyes (focus!) on Jesus. the author and perfecter of our faith...”* Want to have a more positive attitude? Take your eyes off the insanity of the world, and look for all of the unseen ways God is working! Amen!