

Please Read This! It's Important!

Good morning, church family. I want you to know that God woke me up early to pray for you this morning. My heart was filled to overflowing with the knowledge of God's love for each and every one of us. Of this I'm certain: God is holding us in His hands. Do you remember what I said a couple of weeks ago? The safest place we can be is right in the center of God's will for our lives. As citizens of this great country, we have been blessed all of our lives with freedom and the opportunity to worship the Father and serve Him. We don't really know what it means to have our faith challenged. But at this moment, everything that we hold dear has been knocked askew by this COVID-19. We cannot shake hands or hug each other or even gather together to worship. I know that these guidelines are for our own good, and I know that we must follow them. However, as we follow these guidelines, we must not give up our freedom nor the

opportunity God has presented to us to minister to our friends, families, co-workers, and neighbors. We must be wise, but we must also be bold in following what God is calling us to do.

Once again, my mind is drawn to the story of the Good Samaritan who risked his own life to minister to a Jewish man who probably wouldn't have given him the time of day. You see, sometimes love for others – or just knowing the right thing to do – must overshadow our fear of what MIGHT happen. That is what is driving me these days – to encourage all of us to step out in faith to minister like never before. Again, be wise, but be bold. So let me tell you what God has been laying on my heart today. Sonya should get a little credit, too. I'm going to need your help to make both of these work.

First, this Friday night, at 8:00 p.m., would you

be willing to turn on all of the lights in your house, inside and outside, step out on your front porch or driveway with the brightest flashlight you have turned on, and join me in praying for the city of Dadeville, Tallapoosa County, the State of Alabama, and the United States of America as we face this pandemic together. If you have access to Facebook, I will go live at that time and lead in that prayer. Here's what I need you to do: share this with your friends and neighbors and invite them to join us. I will put up a graphic later this morning on Facebook that you can share. I will be sharing a video with this same information. Sonya and I were inspired to do this from our Bible reading this morning about Gideon and his brave army of men. When they sounded their trumpets, shouted aloud, and shined their lights, the enemy was routed and the victory was won by God. Let's do the same thing to our enemy this Friday night.

Second, this might seem a little crazy, but again, God is putting this on my heart to do something for our community. How about on Easter Sunday afternoon, we give our city a gift of food. I would like us to grill hot dogs and hamburgers and give them away to the first 500 people that drive through our parking lot. Not to make that happen, I would need people to grill, wrap, bag, and hand out the food. The best way to do this would be for families to sign up to work together so that we can maintain social distancing. If you would be willing to help, I need to know pretty quickly so that we can finalize our plans and start getting the word out. Read this carefully: if you are not 100% healthy, we do not want you to help. If you have medical conditions that make you more susceptible to the virus, stay home. In fact, I reserve the right to approve all volunteers, so if you just show up, I'm going to have Forrest put you in handcuffs and sit you in your car until this is over. Well, maybe not,

but you get the picture, right? If I can't get enough volunteers by tomorrow, we will assume it's not supposed to happen, so please let me know ASAP.

No fear. Be wise. Love all.

Bro. Ben