

We're back with a devotional, brief news update and student stories from a Policeman and a female student.



As I write this, we're now several months into the Covid-19 pandemic and the infection-rate is still very high and sadly, so is the death-rate. I know many of us have been praying for things to turn around and there has been some progress, but still far too many people are getting sick or losing their jobs or losing loved ones. Companies are struggling and our health-care workers are exhausted.

So, one of the questions I've heard a lot lately is **“Did God cause the Corona virus?”** Well, it's certainly possible that God caused the pandemic because there are times in the Bible when God used the forces of nature and even infectious diseases to bring about His purposes. However, I think outbreak of the virus is more likely just another example and reminder of the fallen nature of the world we live in.

The Bible teaches that the fall of Adam and Eve not only corrupted human nature, but it also corrupted the rest of God's creation. Plants began to die. So did animals. Wood rots. Metal rusts. We have diseases, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes. The rebellion affected everything and **Romans 8** speaks of even the inanimate world groaning to be set free from its bondage and decay.

Often times people wonder why if God is all-powerful and all-loving that He doesn't just get rid of the evil in the world. But then you'd need to ask how much of the evil you'd want Him to get rid of? All of it would be the normal response, but if He got rid of all of the evil in the world, He'd have to get rid of you and me too! Even the best people we know have sinned and contributed to the evil in the world—**Rom. 3:23**. It is in this that we see the incredible and loving patience of God with His fallen creation—**2 Peter 3:8-9**.

But one of God's great promises in the Bible is that one day He will get rid of all evil. In **Rev. 21:4-5** He promises to create a new physical world! A new heaven and a new earth where a perfectly redeemed mankind will live forever.

In the meantime, let me encourage us with a very important truth and it is this: Everything in the life of a believer is *Father-filtered*. By that I mean that anything that gets to you had to go through Him. He can allow and He can prevent. God can use or sometimes even create circumstances to guide our lives and to help us grow in our trust of Him. It's been said that "*God guides by what He provides and what He withholds.*"

This is what I hope you will take away from this--that no matter the circumstances in your life you can rest in knowing that everything in your life is *Father-filtered*. This is the secret of "*being content no matter the circumstances*"—**Phil. 4:12**. This gives you the ability to "*give thanks in all circumstances*"—**1 Thess. 5:18**—knowing that God is watching and guiding every moment of your life. In **Matt. 10:29-31**, Jesus says that not even a sparrow falls to ground without the Father knowing it. Then fear not He says because you are worth far more than a sparrow! So, if He's watching a little bird that closely, imagine how closely He is watching you. Even numbering every hair on your head!

So we must be patient. It is very important to remember that God takes no pleasure in suffering and God isn't helpless in this pandemic. His plans aren't thwarted in this. He is at work in this. Our world is not out of control. God controls evil, He does not create it. But someday there will be, as God has promised, a new heaven and new earth where lots of things thankfully will be missing--no more funerals, no cemeteries, no cancer, no war, no poverty and no Covid-19. The Bible tells us that all of history and everything in the present is heading toward the second coming of Christ. Of that we can be confident.

As for Relgnite Hope, we can't solve all of the world's problems, but we can do our part in pointing our students to the One who can. We can bring real hope to hundreds of students each year who have lost hope. The real hope that is found only in Christ and the blessing of a real career.

"In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."—**John 16:33** May our hope and peace become their hope and peace and that their lives too will be *Father-filtered*!

News Update

Brief update on what's new

Mobile Training

Even though we haven't been able to hold classes at the moment due to the Covid restrictions, we have been very hard at work getting the mobile training center ready for the road. We hope to have it finished and roady-ready this Fall and we'll plan an open house for you all to come and see it. This one eighteen-wheeler will give us the capacity to train and impact the lives of another 240 students each year!

Next Class

As for the Covid crisis putting us on hold, we are still hopeful to begin classes soon. Please add this to your prayers. We just want God's perfect timing on this!

Student Stories

Life-changing stories from our graduates

A Job not Jail



In my capacity serving the community, I try to help the kids I see every day. ReIGNITE Hope has my opened eyes about the opportunities to help kids get out of gangs, get out of jail and find a job. I'm near retirement and plan to spend a lot time here. My officers are also getting out the word about ReIGNITE Hope in areas they serve.

Determined to Turn Her Life Around



After years of depression, growing up in an abusive household, a product of drug use, divorce and loss, Angela found the determination to turn her life around. She was referred to us by one of our community partners, Tarzana Treatment Center. During her four months at Reignite Hope, Angela proved herself to be an intelligent and hard-working individual. She graduated our program in February and now has a new career working for DMC Power as a certified welder. Angela's future is bright.

Thank you for all your faithful prayers and support. Please pray that God will give us His perfect wisdom as to when we can safely begin the next class.

I'll keep you all updated and if you would like to contact me I can be reached by email at steve@reignitehope.com or by phone at [\(310\) 847-0593](tel:(310)847-0593). Please let me know if there is any way that I can be praying for you during these challenging days in which we are living.

Love you All,



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