

KEEPING FAITH IN A COVID WORLD

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Woodland Church
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“The poor will eat and be satisfied. All who seek the LORD will praise him. Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy. The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD and return to him. All the families of the nations will bow down before him. For royal power belongs to the LORD. He rules all the nations. Let the rich of the earth feast and worship. Bow before him, all who are mortal, all whose lives will end as dust. Our children will also serve him. Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord. His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born. They will hear about everything he has done.” (Psalm 22:26–31, NLT)

1. GOD LOVES ME IN MY PAIN.

“[God] gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.” (Matthew 5:45, NLT)

2. EVIL RESULTED FROM MAN’S SIN NOT GOD’S PLAN.

“When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.” (Romans 5:12, NLT)

*“Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.”
(Romans 12:21, NLT)*

*“You love justice and hate evil. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.”
(Psalm 45:7, NLT)*

3. GOD’S GRACE MANIFESTS ITSELF IN OUR ANGER AT EVIL.

“Won’t those who plot evil go astray? But grace and truth are for those who plan good.” (Proverbs 14:22, CJB)

“A just law is a manmade code that squares with the moral law, or the law of God.” -Martin Luther King, Letter from Birmingham Jail

4. GOD TOOK OUR SIN, PAIN, AND SUFFERING UPON HIMSELF.

“While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.” (Hebrews 5:7–8, NLT)

5. HEAVEN’S REALITY FILLS ME WITH INEXPRESSIBLE BLISS.

“That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” (2 Corinthians 4:16–18, NLT)

“In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!” (Luke 15:7, NLT)