



THE FEAR OF CORONA

First comes the curfew. Empty streets. Eerie silence. Panic buying and hoarding. Crowds in front of the supermarkets. Short-time work. The stock market crashes. Television images of ICU patients fighting for their lives. – There is a sense of crisis everywhere!

Have you experienced something like this before? We are simply overstrained with the coronavirus. Scientists are desperately searching for medication and a vaccine. First attempts are being clinically tested. No expert knows the exact extent of the pandemic or can be sure how long it will last.

Will I be infected? Am I already carrying the virus inside of me? And what happens if I get the symptoms? Hopefully I won't die ...



Some are not afraid of the virus itself, but of the unpredictable consequences. We thought because of social and medical progress that epidemics were a thing of the past. But now we are realizing there are things we cannot quickly control: wars, terror attacks – and now a virus that takes our breath away.

But don't panic. Please act wisely and have an eye out for people who need special help and support.

We are making enormous efforts to get in control of the crisis. But do we also make time to reflect on our fear and to try to understand its source?

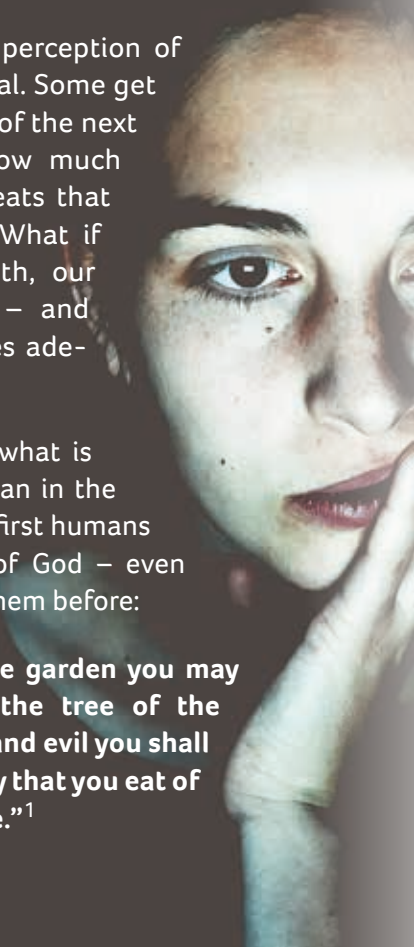



OUR FEAR

Fear is triggered by the perception of danger. This is very natural. Some get nervous only by thinking of the next dentist appointment. How much bigger is the fear of threats that can overtake our body. What if our happiness, our health, our existence are attacked – and we can't defend ourselves adequately?

Let us ask the question: what is the source of fear? It began in the Garden of Eden when the first humans broke a commandment of God – even though God had warned them before:

“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”¹





After that, they hid from God. They lived in fear. How can we stop fearing God? How do we get out of this problem? It does not help to declare God dead or to simply ignore Him. The fact of the matter is that death exists in this world and that it represents the greatest threat for us. Nobody can get past it.

“Therefore, just as through one man [Adam] sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”²

This means that death is ultimately not a biological problem we can get rid of with the help of medicine. Death is the consequence of sin. Because we have sinned against God, we have to die. But not everything ends with death. There is an afterlife.

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”³

Every person will have to explain himself to God one day.

Does God want us to live in fear? – Never! He is a loving and forgiving God. He wants to give us eternal life. For this He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins, and after three days, raised Him from the dead.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”⁴

Nobody needs to or should perish! But it is up to us as to whether we accept the offer of God’s love or not. God has given everything necessary to reconcile us to Himself. The only thing that God expects from you is to admit your guilt and to confess it honestly before Him and to believe in Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. Then you are accepted by God and forever secure. Everyone who does this has a wonderful future:

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”⁵

And what about the fear of Corona? Faith in Jesus Christ does not make us immune against a virus. But if we have experienced the grace of God, we know that we are loved by Him and we can find rest for our souls in all the circumstances of our lives.



GOD TAKES THE FEAR AWAY

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”⁶

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”⁷

¹ Genesis 2:16-17; ² Romans 5:12; ³ Hebrews 9:27; ⁴ John 3:16;

⁵ Revelation 21:4; ⁶ Romans 8:35; ⁷ Romans 8:38-39

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Caused by a new coronavirus, the lung disease Covid-19 spreads rapidly, as does the fear of it. But this is not the only fear we have. This flyer shows you how you can find peace in every way.

Read the Bible – the Word of God!

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