

Tuesday June 23, 2020 Reflection

Lives or Livelihood

*Romans 8:26-28*

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

I was thinking the other day about the decisions that our governmental leaders must make during these unprecedented times. In the past I thought about running for elected office but I came to the conclusion that the system is so flawed that even if you start out with the best of intentions eventually you have to engage in politics to get anything done. As I mused about the current situation in our state, I realized that Governor Wolf is in an impossible position.

If you move counties too fast into yellow and green you run the risk of increasing covid-19 infections which literally costs some people, their lives. If you move too slowly to reopen you are literally costing some people, their livelihoods. If you boil it down to the raw facts, it seems to me that each governor is faced with the decision of lives versus livelihoods. This is certainly not a position I would want to be in.

Some states have opened more quickly than Pennsylvania and the number of people ill with covid-19 has skyrocketed and intensive care units are full. At the same time, we are seeing an almost daily influx of businesses that are closing. It seems to me that it is a difficult situation at best. Whatever decision you make it causes pain for people.

As we lament the situation in our community and in our country, it seems that our best response starts with prayer and continues with compliance. Pray for our elected leaders as they try to balance lives and livelihoods, pray for our health care workers who are caring for people who are ill, pray for those whose livelihoods and businesses are suffering, pray for those trying to find cures and vaccines for covid-19, and pray for peace within our communities.

Then help the cause, wear your masks, and take care not to go out if you are not feeling well. Support those small businesses as you are able. Be patient as it appears covid-19 will be a part of our daily lives for much longer than we had hoped or would like. Take everything to God in prayer.

In Peace,

Pastor Suzanne