

Compass Bearing #26
Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic
"Back to the Future"
Thursday, May 21, 2020
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Yesterday, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb announced that most of the state would move to Stage 3 of the five-stage reopening plan tomorrow. He said, "We've earned the ability to continue to move forward." His statement breathes hope into our wearied spirits. I don't know about you, but I'm ready to get back to the future!

What that future will look like, nobody knows for sure. Will facemasks in banks be a new normal? Will high fives and handshakes be a thing of the past? Will packed stores and stadiums and sanctuaries be a nostalgic memory we tell our grandchildren someday?

Or, in time, will people go back to their pre-pandemic way of life? Will we go right back to overworking and overcommitting and overpacking our schedules to the point of chronic exhaustion? Will we soon forget the joys of time with God, time with family, and time alone?

Transitions in life are huge reset buttons. We have the opportunity in that moment to decide how we will live into the new future before us. Two of the most powerful verses in the Old Testament take place at the time of huge transitions. The first was recorded just as Solomon's temple was completed, at a time when Israel was a united nation and experiencing great prosperity, peace and power:

"...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

The second verse took place some 400 years later, when Israel was a weak, divided nation and as enemy forces were arriving to destroy Solomon's temple and haul away the nation's most productive people into captivity:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Whether facing peace and prosperity or facing death and destruction, the message is the same: put your trust in God. While we do not know the future that is before us, we can be assured that God will be in it. You and I cannot decide when the pandemic is over. But we can decide our attitude before God as we live through it.

Spend some time with the Lord right now, seeking His will for your future in Him.