

# A Word of Encouragement

## Our Corona-coaster. . .

**To:** Our Royal Palm pastors and church families

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**Welcome to the new Corona-crazy world**, my friends! Has this been a dizzying and sometimes frightening roller coaster ride or what? And when will it be over? Actually, shall we be honest? This ride will never be over. The virus will eventually subside, but things will be different from here on out, everywhere. It was not a couple of towers being toppled in one city—catastrophic though that was. It was and will continue to be national economies, social systems, governments, schools, businesses, churches, clubs, restaurants and families being impacted everywhere. Things will never be the same, so let's talk about that.

**First, it is good to talk** about the menagerie of feelings we're all having. Denial only helps us a bit in the immediate shock of an unexpected circumstance. Now that the shock is subsiding for most, musing and even venting out loud is much healthier, and the safest place to do that is in the presence of the Lord in prayer. He can handle whatever you have to say. And He can settle your heart. From there, it is still wise and mature to talk with a counselor, pastor, mentor, spouse, and a trusted friend as often as you need to. Don't try to do life alone, my friend. That's what pouting children think they want to do.

**Second, about that ride . . .** while it will never end, it will gradually change. The spiked highs and lows will settle down to a few jolts, twists, turns, rattles, and shakes like any good roller coaster, and don't forget, life actually IS a roller coaster – always has been, always will be – though the last few months have been a rougher one. So if you are still feeling pretty Corona-crazy, it's okay. You are not alone.

So here's a good focal point that may help:

**Going back to the things the way they were is not our goal – going forward to something better is our goal.**



**What is that something better?** With all the challenges we will be facing in the months and even years ahead, we will get to learn how to strap in, embrace the adventure, and even raise our hands with exuberant screams with all the rises and falls before us. And that's why we have a Savior. And people are noticing that more than ever. . .

**Did you know** that during the Corona crisis, there's been an upward spike in Bible sales? Churches are having more people listening to their Livestream worship services than ever attended their church? Giving and service projects are going up, not down? The Lord is with us my friend, and He cares, so here is my gift to you . . .

**It is my role** to encourage and equip God's people in their mission efforts, and this Corona era has spurred me to create a free 3-minute daily devotional video (Mon. - Fri.) called: "**Helping You Hear God,**" that you can enjoy and choose to forward to reach people with the gospel! Each brief video will give you and them a better and better glimpse of what God is *really* like, and how much He *really* loves us. There is no better way to ride life's roller coaster, especially this Corona-coaster, than that.

On the ride with you, Pastor Mark

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