



**The Church of God of Prophecy General Presbyter of North America Ministries, Bishop Tim Coalter, has issued the following statement on the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic:**

The implications of the coronavirus are staggering. The Bible tells of another staggering situation that confronted Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. Upon receiving word that a great multitude was coming against him to battle, he set himself to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah, saying, “O our God,... we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee” (*2 Chron. 20:12*). In this simple prayer, the king did three things: First, he acknowledged the magnitude of the crisis. Second, he recognized his inability to fix it. Finally, he turned his gaze upward. To this, the Lord responded saying, “Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord...” (*2 Chron 20:15, 17*).

The magnitude of the coronavirus is enormous. It is beyond the ability of our government and those in the medical profession to alleviate the crisis that we are facing, but we are not without hope... O God, our eyes are upon you. As people of faith, we will not succumb to fear because the battle is not ours, but God’s. During this critical time, set yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord.

As the President recently declared a national emergency, he also declared this Sunday, March 15, to be a National Day of Prayer, acknowledging, “We are a Country that, throughout our history, has looked to God for protection and strength in times like these.” Our help comes from the Lord.

As we pray, there are also some practical implications to be considered such as governmental and self-imposed restrictions on travel and public gatherings. I want to encourage all of our churches to discern wisely, cooperate fully and comply with any local, state or national governmental directives which might be issued.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, consider the Core Values of the Church of God of Prophecy... **Prayer:** Pray that God will hear from heaven and heal our land. **Harvest:** Look for opportunities to serve your neighbor and community. As you reflect the heart of God during this crisis, you will draw others to Him. **Leadership Development:** Perhaps God has been developing your leadership gifts for such a times as this. Be prepared to step up and lead spiritually, practically and by example. **Stewardship:** Manage your resources well during this crisis, share with others who are in need and continue to support your local church ministries with your tithing and giving. Even if restrictions for public gathering are imposed, the financial needs of your church will continue and may even increase. Your faithfulness will be greatly appreciated.

Above all else, rest in the promise of God...“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty” (*Psalms 91:1*).