Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #34

You Are Priceless

**1 John 4:9 (NASB)***“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him*.”

A few days ago my daughter told me about a man who served with a first-responder team who took his own life. Because I have a son who works for a first-responder team, I wanted to check in with him. To protect the family, without giving too many details, suffice it to say the pressures of the job became overwhelming. As you can imagine, the men and women who serve us in the capacities of police work and rescue work must deal with exceedingly difficult situations as they are the first responders to both crime scenes and accidents. I greatly appreciate all they do for this community and what many others across our country do for the people in their local areas. Just a few weeks before this event, I was talking with someone who told me that over their lifetime they had thought about taking their own life six times.

So, as I was driving to my office this morning, I was thinking about this man and many others like him who take their own lives. I will not presume anything other than it saddens me to no end. And the reason it saddens me is because I know the power of God and His love - a love that reaches beyond any pressure or pain - a love that gives us the hope to continue in life even when all seems hopeless and lost and pointless.

The Apostle John was a man who had been through much with the Lord Jesus. He was the youngest of the group which put untold pressure on him from a lot of angles. I’m sure there were times when he must have felt challenged to perform like the other men or to be someone great because he was a disciple. (Luke 9:46) Satan is relentless when it comes to tempting us with who we think we should be or what we think others think we should be. But moved by the power of God, John was able to write this powerful message: God’s love is so deep for us, so focused, so determined, so incredible, that He would make a sacrifice that only God could make. He willingly gave up His Son’s life so that we could have life.

I know for many people this message has been heard over and over again since Christ died. But the truth of it remains. The truth is, God genuinely loves us in a way that no human can understand. In fact, He has loved us so much that He also has promised to provide all we need in this life. **Philippians 4:19 (NASB)** “*And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”* That’s not just our physical needs. Notice the word all. That means God is capable and will provide all emotional needs, mental needs, spiritual needs as well.

One of my favorite passages in the Scripture is from Isaiah. **Isaiah 9:6 (NASB)** “*For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace*.” He is our Wonderful Counselor. The word wonderful means astonishing and amazing. Meaning of all counselors in the world, Jesus is the epitome. He knows the needs or our hearts. He knows our pain. He knows our struggles with work and life and people. And He has the answer to our deepest hurts. And notice also Isaiah says Jesus is the Prince of Peace. If ever people need peace, it is during the most challenging times of life. And Jesus is the One who can give the peace that passes all understanding. And His peace can keep us from falling for the traps and temptations of Satan, the one who only wants to destroy you. (John 10:10) **Philippians 4:7 (NASB)***“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*.”

This life has and will have many challenges. This time in history is one of the greatest of challenges because the entire world is being affected. You may be having thoughts of ending your life. May I offer you Jesus? Would you just look to Him for all you need? He is able. And He wants to help you. Just reach out to Him in your heart, and He will help you. He sacrificed His life to prove it.

 **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NASB)** 16  “*Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, 17  comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.”*