Last night I received this note from one of our members at HBT. Their identity is not as important as the sincerity of the words.

Dear Bro. Barry,

I really appreciated the stream service last night and all who worked to make it happen. There were a lot of churches that had no church at all last night. This week has been really rough as I am sure it has been for everyone.  Everywhere you look the virus is all that is talked about. As I wait on my customers, you can tell many are worried. I was in to see my Dr. on Tuesday and he admonished me to use sanitizer between every customer. I have just felt so anxious and by the end of each day I have felt drained. I know God has all of this in His control. It is easy to get your mind on all that is going on around us.

I was thankful for the service and the reminders from God's word. I appreciate all of the efforts to gather as a church even though we cannot meet as we normally do and appreciate having a church that cares for the needs of each member. I feel there are many things we will learn from this time and it will help us to not take things for granted. God bless you.

It is at least a good thing for us to have “services” even if they are streamed, and no one is in the same room with one another. That is not how we are accustomed to worship. It is at least a good thing for us to have our families around us, even if we are mandated to isolate ourselves and remain at home. It is a good thing for us to have a Bible full of promises that remind us of God’s care and power and love for His people.

But I can assure you that living through difficult times is… difficult. We are forced to adjust and make changes that are indefinite. And we live with a disease encroaching like a creeping fog over the world, that no one seems to be able to stop. All our “normal” remedies and complaints seem to be useless against the power of a virus.

Our training over all these years encourages us as the Bride to trust in Jesus Christ as our greatest resource, and we will continue to do so. The Biblical pattern concerning turning points illustrates how God will allow something to continue on and on until a certain point where He decides, the time is now right to enact change. God spoke to Moses in Deut. 2:3 and said, “*Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward.”* And Bro. Branham said:

One day little old Joshua, he believed every Word God said. He said, "It's all truth. God took care of us and kept His promise; He said He'd supply our needs while we're out here. **But that's not all of it. There lays a promised land; let's go to it**. You been on this mountain forty years; turn now; turn northward and upward and cross over." Amen. (**THE.CHURCH.CHOOSING.LAW.FOR.GRACE 61-0316)**

So, the message becomes, there is more that lays ahead. This is not all of it, keep pressing forward a little longer. The way forward is obviously not the broad (easy) way, but it is the right way. My encouragement to you as a Pastor is that our vision remains our driving force and the joy of the Lord is always your strength. Ask Him to bring out a measure of perseverance from within. From deep down in the realm of your soul. May He continue to inspire us and keep our eyes on our destiny and not so much on the circumstances around us. May He give you all the strength to carry on today and not be swallowed up by fear of the unknown. He is still a healer in bad times and a provider in times of great shortage. He is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

God bless you all,

Bro. Barry