

## The Christian Response to the Coronavirus

By Reverend Dr. RB Holmes, Pastor Bethel Missionary Baptist Church April 23, 2020



Our focus this week has been on faith, specifically, stepping out in faith. Hebrews 11:1 states "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Having true faith means we believe in God and act on His word; true faith means we trust in all of His promises. Faith is a substance, a reality, a hope, a conviction, even though we have not yet seen it come into fruition. Having true faith means we believe in God's word at all seasons and in all struggles. Having true faith means I am still holding on to God's unchanging hand.

In today's culture, many people have more faith in self, in the world, in the government, in the daily news and in others more than faith in God. This statement is troubling, but it is a true statement. *The level of our belief determines the level of our obedience*. Listen, the Lord said in Deuteronomy 11:26-28, "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; a blessing if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day, and a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God." True faith is obedience, trusting and obeying the word of God.

The word of God is spirit and life and results in a fruitful and fulfilling life when believers obey the word of God. Hear this again; I just love this verse: Romans 10: 17, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Faith is our way back to God. We must not be more concerned about them opening up the government again. Beloved, I am more concerned about us opening up our hearts again to our faithful Lord. "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

The old hymn is challenging us to "Trust and Obey"

When we walk with the Lord, in light of his word, what a glory He sheds on the way!

While we do His good will, He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey - for there's no other way to be happy with Jesus, but to trust and obey. Amen.