

Spiritual Encouragement Message from Johnson Avenue
March 19, 2020

Most of us Christians are now thinking on the right biblical answers to the present high-octane questions like: How can the Church of Christ respond to a worldwide magnitude disease like the Corona virus? What would the apostles and disciples of Jesus do in times like these? God's Word records (grab your Bible) that they started what we now know as the collection for the saints. In the three continents, Europe, Asia, and Africa they started that collection to respond to a great famine throughout the world. Acts 11:26-30. Particularly the Jewish disciples in Judea could not turn to their local synagogues for any type of help. John 9:22, nor to the Jewish priests, nor to their persecuting roman government. So each and every individual believer in the world helped them. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, even the ones in deep poverty among them stretched out to help. 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. They all helped according to their ability and some beyond their ability. A great response like that is written as a pattern and as doctrine for something that all we Christians need to learn to do to meet urgent needs. Titus 3:14 and not just limit ourselves to good wishes when we can do more. Some people say, "all we can do is pray." That poor attitude diminishes the power available in communicating with God our Creator and Father. First century Christians depended on prayers as well to carry on their service. Romans 15:30-31. Salvation is free but is not cheap. It is attained. Ephesians 2:8-9, but it needs to be maintained Ephesians 2:10. Will elaborate more on this next week.

In Christ,
Oscar Velazquez