

Kingswood Baptist Church,
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Letters to the Church during COVID-19: 8th April 2020

To all the brothers and sister at KBC,

Last week I wrote about keeping connected, the second consistent message you will be hearing from me over the next few months is #KeepTrusting. It is something you will hear often, 'trust God' and 'keep trusting' are words I use often to encourage people when they are in trying circumstances. But then I have often wondered afterwards, what does that trusting look like and especially now during this pandemic what will it look like in our daily lives to trust God? It is not an easy question to answer. I can tell you what it does not mean. Trusting God does not mean that He will eventually give you everything you want and work out exactly the way you want it to.

Trusting God means living with the unshakeable conviction that whatever God decides to do is the right thing and whatever He allows to happen is under His sovereignty and therefore able to be used for our good according to His purposes (Romans 8:28). In order to come to this unshakeable conviction, we need to grow to know God and listen to God and that happens as we immerse ourselves in His Word and abide with Him in prayer, which so often leads to trusting action.

It is in this place that we find our **focus** on the author and perfecter of our faith. The One that Peter focused on as he walked on water amidst the wind and waves. We adopt an **attitude of gratitude**, each day thanking God for the innumerable blessings He has poured into our lives. Thanksgiving changes our perspective in a powerful way. We pray and ask the gracious Father for the things that we need but also for the needs of others: peace, wisdom, faith, hope, joy and so on. We seek to **love others and bear their burdens**. We don't have control of what is going on around us, but we do have control on how we will respond so we love extravagantly by washing our hands, keeping social distance but not relational distance and offer help where we can. We **share our peace and spread calm** because trusting Jesus allows us to be a calm and non-anxious presence in an anxious world.

As we do these things we will find ourselves singing with the old hymn writer, *'When peace like a river, attends my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul'* I guess this captures the essence of trusting God, it is the ability to say, 'Whatever my lot, it is well with my soul'. Why? Because our lives and being are lashed to the Master who is good and has lavished us

with promise after promise that whatever befalls us, He is with us and He will see us through.

Hopefully the message is clear this week #KeepTrusting.

May His grace and peace be with you.

Stu

#KeepTrusting #KeepConnected #Call4Support

Notices:

Upcoming Easter events on Zoom

Thursday – 7:45pm, Maundy Thursday Communion (bring your own bread and wine).

Friday – 10am, Good Friday Service (we will open the room at 9:30am for people to gather to chat and leave it open after the service for people to chat as well).

Sunday – 8am, Communion Service.

Sunday – 10:30am, Sunday Morning Service (we will open the room at 10am for people to gather to chat and leave it open after the service for people to chat as well).

KBC YouTube channel

Here is the link to our KBC YouTube channel with Stu's daily devotional series 'You are....' and our sermons each week,

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0IqZEJkxDYGSeCQCw6onJw/featured>

A reminder of the log in details, should you need them:

<https://zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 987 138 2512, contact office for password

Using a landline

You can use one of the teleconferencing numbers below and when instructed enter the meeting ID, followed by #. Then just press # to join the meeting.

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0208 080 6591

0208 080 6592