

Positive Thinking vs. Pandemic Panic

Dear Elder James R. Rasband, 70

3/6/20 ~ 19:00

I get hardly any news here, but from what I can gather from a few sources, apparently there is a pandemic paranoia sweeping the world.

Not long ago, I read The Great Influenza, which gave a vivid depiction of the 1800s epidemic that claimed possibly as many as 150 million lives globally and gripped the world in fear. So as the corona virus and others spread, you can see why people would grow concerned.

The problem comes when overreacting creates more disruption than the ill that is afoot. A lack of vigilance, on the other hand, has been a major contributor to the spread of plagues in the past.

Drawing an analogy between society and an individual can be beneficial for addressing the question about how best to respond to such dangers. So as I describe the principles that apply to an individual, realizing there is a macrocosm parallel can bring peace.

First, I do not believe there is such a thing as an incurable disease because with God, nothing is impossible. There is no foe that will conquer when one's trust is in God.

I shared with Laura in a letter the story of a nasty flu bug I came down with that was miraculously purged from my body

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in less than 12 hours of when symptoms first started showing. A friend who had what was likely the same flu was laid out for three days and took another week to fully recover.

Following that flu, ^{I had,} a cold flared up. I applied the same principles of faith, and it, too, was gone within 12 hours. So I was able to perform a Thanksgiving medley I'd prepared for Sunday's worship service.

I believe I was given that situation to illustrate a "purge" process I see the ChisFB utilizing whenever the teleport^(tp) from planet to planet or continent to continent, so they don't bring a dangerous microbe or chemical from the place of origin to the destination.

I envision this process taking just a few brief steps. (A) tp to a "clean room" capable of sealing off air flow, (B) shut off air flow, (C) "purge" out the dangerous microbes or chemicals (a gift of the Spirit), (D) tp to the destination, ^E tp the deactivated microbes / chemicals back to the place of origin, turn the air flow of the clean room back on. The whole process could take 2-5 seconds on average.

Besides tp, the key is the "purge" step. In the above flu then cold scenario, I saw a miraculous purging of two diff. infections from my body; and in both cases, the infection was approaching full development in my body. So I can tell you

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From this recent experience, that I have full confidence in this "plague" gift of the Spirit. There is no infection God doesn't know how to identify and eliminate.

The early Saints saw this illustrated several times, and we've seen manifestations in modern times as well.

Fear is the antonym of faith. Fear is rooted in not believing in a cure. Fear is based in a lack of faith that a plague can pass by.

Panic is a chaotic manifestation of such fear, leading to irrational actions that can be worse than the ill feared.

It seems to me that panic is beginning to manifest in some places today in response to plague fears.

Just as I, as one person, was miraculously spared from two concurrent infections, so also could society be spared by employing such faith.

Is that too high an expectation?

I don't think so. I see this awakening starting in a few days, maybe weeks; and as people see the principles of faith and healing and empowerment rising, their fear will be replaced with faith. Faith can spread rapidly - more rapidly than disease, especially with modern technology - now augmented with tools like the IT.

These same principles of faith and

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divine direction apply to the myriad of individuals combatting the spread of disease: researchers, vaccine makers, medical personnel, politicians, infrastructure people, transportation, etc... The body of Christ comprises all of us working together. Working together under faith is far superior to working under fear and esp. paranoia. With faith, we ^{can} work a myriad of miracles. With fear, we're likely to succumb.

I vote we go with the positive thinking option.

Sincerely
Stirling