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8 Ways to Gain Wisdom from the Coronavirus

James

Wisdom Is Seeing Life from God's **PERSPECTIVE** and Living Accordingly.

James 1:5-7; 3:11-18

Pastor Mark Oden, Chiesa Evangelica Neapolis, Naples, Italy:

I awoke this morning in Naples, Italy's third city, to have been placed on lockdown. Public gatherings, including church services, have been forbidden. Weddings, funerals, and baptisms have been canceled. Schools and cinemas, museums and gyms, have all been closed. My wife and I just returned from a grocery-shopping trip that took two hours due to long checkout lines. Italy currently has the highest reported number of coronavirus cases outside of China: 9,172 cases and 463 deaths. As a result, 60 million people have been told to remain in their homes unless absolutely necessary.

How are we, as Christians, to respond to such a crisis? Answer: with faith not fear. We are to look into the eye of the storm and ask, "Lord, what are you wanting me to learn through this? How are you seeking to change me?"

8 Ways to Gain Wisdom from the Coronavirus

1. Our **FRAGILITY** and God's **STABILITY**.

Psalms 103:15-18; 1 Peter 1:23-25; James 4:14; Psalm 90:12

2. Our **HUMANITY** and God's **SOVEREIGNTY**.

Genesis 1:26-28; Acts 17:23-27

3. Our **INABILITY** and God's **ABILITY**.

James 4:13-5:3

4. Our **VULNERABILITY** and God's **PITY**.

James 1:27, 13-17; 5:11

5. Our ANXIETY and God's GENEROSITY.

James 2:1-9, 14-16; 1:5-8

6. Our NECESSITY and God's PRIORITY.

Matthew 6:24-34; James 5:13-18

7. Our VANITY and God's ETERNITY.

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 3:9-11; James 1:17-18

8. Our DEPRAVITY and God's CERTAINTY.

Romans 3:23; 5:12; James 5:7-11

*Our biggest concern in life is not sickness; it's sin. By all means, let's do all we can to limit the spread of physical disease.
But our precautions against vice should be even more than our precautions against a virus. – Kevin DeYoung*

Therefore, as Christ-followers let's live with a **Gospel-shaped** response that is **faith-based** vs fear-based, **hope-filled** vs worry-filled, **love-acting** vs self-protecting, and **Christ-centered** vs crisis-centered.

"Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12