

Thought for the Wednesday April 29th
Prepared by Don & Jenny Spooner

*“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will”,
(Ephesians chapter 1 verse 11)*

As we move through another week of “self-isolation” how are you feeling? How is each day panning out? I am a person who likes routine getting up early and getting on with things. At the moment each day can be a bit “the same” no lows or highs. How does the reading apply to me and you as chosen by God for his purposes?

Many times I hear people say “after this, things will never be the same again”. What about us?

What I do know is that to me, the day is very much about daybreak, noon evening and end. Because there is not a lot happening in between.

One thing we do have is time, which we didn’t have before. Time to think and time to draw closer to God. This is actually a wonderful opportunity to make a new beginning. As our reading said God is working all things out for you and me in accordance to His will.

At the time of writing this, I have just broken away to observe a minutes silence for all those who have lost their lives to coronavirus in their line of duty. A time to think of them.

In our morning reflection which we do each day, for today (Tuesday) it said as we attempt to plan our day pause, go back to the threshold of it and realise that Jesus is standing beside you, and let him guide you along the way. I imagined standing on the front doorstep of my Grandads house, looking up the hallway stairs in front and doors off to the side, so often we can go through the wrong door, into the wrong room, we can have conversations with each other, those we love, which are a dead end. We can put ourselves first, we can separate ourselves from God.

I quote a Benedictine prayer by Charles de Forcauld it’s called
“The Prayer of Abandonment”

*Father,
I abandon myself into your hands;
do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you:
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures –
I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul:
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,
and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.*

It is when we surrender ourselves and our life to God that new life, new starts can come. As we go through this time of isolation, but also of opportunity, one thing we should always remember, and the reading reminds us of that, is that we are sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters in Christ, and we are inheritors of the kingdom of heaven.

Let's Pray: God our Father, Our lives are in Your hands. Your hands that hold us through these difficult times. It is Your love that sustains us, in those times when our minds are all over the place and unable to concentrate. It is then that we need to hold fast and be still and know that You are God.

We pray that we would be given the ability to understand the greatness of God.

Lord Jesus, You make it clear that our sickness and disease are not because we sinned. We ask for blessing on all those working in hospitals and care homes. All those families who have lost someone in this awful pandemic. Shine Your light and love on all who are suffering at this time and may they know and feel the healing hands and hope and joy that Jesus brings. May we be reminded every day that each and every one of us are children of God, loved and precious in Your sight.

God our Father, Your son laid down His life so that we would trust You. We bring our prayers through Your son who now reigns with You forever. May we like Him remain faithful to You. Draw us closer in unity and fellowship in Your name. Amen.

Hymn: Lord of all Hopefulness (*Hymns & Psalms 552 (Jan Struther 1901-53)*)

Click link <https://youtu.be/tBwK159xwDE>

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, Whose trust, ever child-like, No cares could destroy, Be there at our waking, And give us, we pray, Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, At the break of the day.	2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, Whose strong hands were skilled At the plane and the lathe, Be there at our labours, And give us, we pray, Your strength in our hearts, Lord, At the noon of the day.
3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace, Be there at our homing, And give us, we pray, Your love in our hearts, Lord, At the eve of the day	4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, Whose voice is contentment, Whose presence is balm, Be there at our sleeping, And give us, we pray, Your peace in our hearts, Lord, At the end of the day.

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