

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. 12 So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

During this time, as we are practicing social distancing and separation, we feel the discomforts of a new normal. We are accustomed to stimuli from the outside, so some of us feel the pressure building as we follow the stay-at-home orders. But we are reminded that we have a great treasure inside of us. We have an all-surpassing power from God. We are equipped to withstand pressure and not be crushed. We may be perplexed by mixed messages, but we do not have to succumb to despair. We can withstand persecution because even when we are alone, we are not abandoned; God is with us. We do carry within our mortal bodies something that will lead to death, but life is at work in you and me. We are adjusting to this new normal, but the God we serve is still the same. "He walks with us and talks with us along the narrow way. He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!" Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Take God's all-surpassing power and live an abundant life today. This period we are going through reminds us of how precious a single breath is. If we can breathe, we are blessed. For those who are suffering, we pray for God's healing power.