

TRUST THE ONE WHO DOES KNOW

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord.

They are plans for good and not disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”
(Jeremiah 29: 11)

September 2, 1988. Thirty-two years ago, to the day that you might be reading this message. Thirty-two years ago, the lights were on at our church. The reason why I know this is because Nadine and I were there to say our “I do’s” and to enter our life of marriage with each other. There were some things I did know as I stood at the front of the church waiting for Nadine to come down the aisle:

- I knew we were running late,
- I knew I was in love,
- I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life with Nadine,
- I knew I was blessed and fortunate she wanted to marry a guy like me,
- I knew the next day we would be leaving for a short honeymoon.

But there was so much more that I did not know at that time:

- I didn’t know then what the years ahead would hold in store for us,
- I didn’t know at some point in our marriage God would call me to change the course of my life’s plans and become a minister,
- I didn’t know at the time that it would be 18 years before God would bless us with our daughter Coral,
- I didn’t know at the time that God would have me come back to the very church we were married at to become the minister there,
- I didn’t know that I would be the minister at a time when we would be experiencing this pandemic.

There was so much that I didn’t know when I stood at the front of the church 32 years ago waiting for Nadine to come down the aisle to begin our life together as husband and wife.

Thirty-two years later I find myself in that exact same situation. There is so much I don’t know at this time due to the pandemic:

- I don’t know at this moment an exact date when we will receive permission from the Chief Medical Officer of Health that we can regather to worship,

- I don't know if a second wave will happen this fall causing schools, churches or businesses to be forced to close again,
- I don't know if there will be a basketball season for my daughter to play in this year or not,
- I don't know what our new reality will be once this pandemic is over,
- I don't know how much longer we have to go through having to live with all this uncertainty like we are right now.

In normal times we still would be faced with unknowns but not the additional ones that this pandemic is causing us to experience. It is not easy for us to experience all these unknowns because it makes us feel like we are not in control of our lives. One thing I have learned during these past 32 years is to trust in the One who does know what the future holds.

God makes it known to Jeremiah and the Israelites living in captivity in Babylon that He knows what lies ahead for them:

“You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not disaster, to give you a future and hope.”

How reassuring it must have been for the Israelites being in captivity to hear this message and be reminded that God knows with certainty what lies ahead for them. During this pandemic that is causing us to live with so many unknowns and uncertainties, God reminds us that He knows our future too. Despite the realities we face, God is reminding us to trust Him because He has plans for our good and not our disaster, to give us a future and a hope and not despair.

Passages like this remind us that:

Faith Is Not What We Know But, Who We Know!

We know God knows the future, knows us, knows our fears and worries and knows when we need to be uplifted with messages of hope like this.

It is hard at this moment in time living with such uncertainties due to the realities brought on us by this pandemic. THANKFULLY, we can find peace and reassurance trusting in the ONE who does know the future and knows what is best for us.

I was not at this point in my faith 32 years ago standing at the front of the church about to be married. I believed and had faith, but I didn't know God as well as I do now. But He knew my future back then and knew that I would be the minister at this same church 32 years later during a pandemic. It is a reminder like this that helps me feel at peace in this time of uncertainty that I trust in the One who does know.

**FAITH IS NOT WHAT YOU KNOW BUT WHO YOU KNOW. AREN'T WE
THANKFUL WE KNOW GOD WHO KNOWS WITH COMPLETE CERTAINTY
OUR FUTURE?**

God Bless and Keep Safe

Pastor Dean

He Knows My Name : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXsiWoyjw60>