

## In the fight...

... sometimes numbness can set in... and actually feel good.

The phrase “new normal” has been being used for months now, both telling people that what they've known in their lives all along is gone, and convincing them *to accept the idea* that what they have known all along is gone. In other words, “Get used to it, for there's nothing you can do about it”.

One of the things about the phrase itself, “new normal”, is that it refers to something *which is in fact normal* and telling people that that normal reality is gone, and not coming back! This raises a goodly number of questions, the first of which springs to my mind asks, “Says who?”.

The second which follows so closely on the heels of the first is, “Why?”.

A third, which just might not occur to many in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in which we are losing our Constitutional freedoms is, “Why is anyone but me, determining what's normal for me, and why must I be forced to accept someone/anyone else's 'normal' as my own?”.

We can argue and debate the legitimacy of these questions, and you may believe that you have the answers. But for some of us, we take exception to the imposition of a will other than our own, in our affairs, our homes, our families, our comings and goings, our routines, our places of worship... our normal. Apparently crazily, we've come to expect that we can make our own decisions. Now suddenly, we cannot. Where we go, under what circumstances we go, whether or not we can go, are all being decided by someone else, whether or not we like it, and whether or not it benefits us or harms us and ours. (And we got here rather quickly, did we not?)

The above questions can seem so, so obvious as to make us think, “*Hey! He's right. Let's go back to our own norms*”. But that's not quite as easy as it sounds, Loved Ones.

For those by whom these things are being put upon us, the “*whos*” the “*someones*”, the “*anyones*”, have thought this thing through and are obviously unrelenting in their endeavor/agenda to redefine your life and my life; your and my *normal*. They are unrelenting... and it is exhausting. In fact, it's exhausting almost to the point of numbness... which is where we came in.

Sometimes numbness can set in, and actually feel good. The temptation to just go along is so strong... sometimes my mind just wants to escape the constant assault, for indeed, as I see and hear all the lies from the news and the government, and those supporting it, and see the deception all around me in the lives of those being deceived, I feel assaulted, bruised, battered... exhausted, and numb.

It is becoming harder and harder to just get along due to the “new norms” all around me, with which most are just complying. Those complying “seem” to be getting along fine, while I'm struggling and frustrated. There are times when I just want to give up fighting and just go along with all of them, just to get along! My mind asks, “*Why am I fighting in the first place? Maybe I'm wrong and they're all right. Maybe I'm the one being deceived and am deceived, and so deceiving others. Perhaps the new normal is best for us all after all...*”.

Do you think that those who think this thing up have not considered this exhaustion, this tiredness and numbness and banked on it?!?!

Be not deceived.

While the origins of this quote are in dispute, the truth of it is not. *"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing"*. That means that evil must be fought. In order for it to be fought, someone must fight.

Would you be surprised to find exhaustion on the battlefield... numbness? During the assault, the constant onslaught of battle, do you think there is not a desire to just stop, to give up the fight, to surrender? The warrior can become numb. The smell and horror of battle are real, be they physical, mental and/or emotional.

Loved Ones: we are tired. Some of us are numb. Some are ready to give up.

Do not.

Stay. Stay, Beloved. Stay in the fight, and the Truth of Messiah and the Armor of Messiah will suffice and give us victory. I promise you... as has God.

Here is an inspiration quote I found for those of us who look back at past fights - even if we were victorious, and now realize how tired we are in *this* fight, and wonder how we can fight on...

*"To recall such a past is helpful and inspiring, but what of the future? What of the new needs for tomorrow? The same foundation which prepared us for them will fit us now, the underlying principles unchanging and unchangeable... the determination to stand by our faith, the untiring search for the gold of truth, unwavering loyalty to the Word of God, and the unflinching courage to face life and what it brings in God."*

Pastor