

## **TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN**

*...through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report;  
genuine, yet regarded as impostors;  
known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on;  
beaten, and yet not killed;  
sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich;  
having nothing, and yet possessing everything.  
2 Cor. 6:8-10*

### **REFLECTION**

Life is certainly not a bed of roses. As children of God, we are not spared hardships in life. We experience hard work, sleepless nights, and days of anguish too. We are often taught not to just grin and bear with it, but also not to pull long, sorrowful faces, be melancholic and feel downtrodden. But God never intend for us to simply endure and accept the beatings of life like victims of circumstances. Instead, Paul in 2Cor.6:4-10 tells us that we can still live joyful lives in the midst of challenges and moments of despair because the God we serve and worship gives us His Holy Spirit to do so. The prolific hymn writer, Fanny Crosby (1820-1915), suffered the loss of her eyesight when she was only 2 months old under the negligent care of a dubious doctor. At age 6 months, her father died and her step-mother, Mercy, had to work as a maid to support the family. Fanny was given over to her grandmother, Eunice, who taught her to memorize 5 chapters of the Bible each week. At 15 years old, she had memorized the gospels, the first 5 books of the Old Testament, the Book of Proverbs, the Song of Songs and many of the Psalms. Her life was a testimony of the refusal to feel sorry for herself, while she penned this poem as an 8 year-old blind girl.

*Oh what a happy soul I am,  
Caption though I cannot see!  
I am resolved that in this world  
Contented I will be.*

*How many blessings I enjoy  
That other people don't  
To weep and sigh because I'm blind  
I cannot, and I won't*

Paul knew what it was like to be hard-pressed and trying situations. But he also knew that in such situations there is another side to those experiences, one that empowers him with hope, joy and deep assurance that God is present with him. So, he holds the present and the future in tandem, knowing God is in control; he rejoices. Are you facing

difficulties in life at the moment? It is normal to feel discouraged and be disappointed; it is okay to cry even – God is present with you. He is able to empower you with His Spirit and grace so that you may be able to weather through life's challenges with hope and joy in your hearts.

### **PRAYER**

*God our Father, stop us when we get stuck in the sorrows of life. Help us, Your servants, to live and speak the true message that we have in our possession; Your righteousness and the power of Your Holy Spirit at work within us in spite of the stressors and struggles in daily living. Lead us to joyful service and devotion. Help us see with eyes of faith the riches in heaven that await us as we stay true to our heavenly calling. Amen.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Pray for those affected by economic downturn due to COVID19. Pray for the various local businesses and companies that they may be sustained by God's grace. Pray for the working men and women to stay in viable employment. Pray for workable solutions to the economic fallout felt all over the world.
- Pray for those grieving over loss, especially those who have lost family members and friends, or even personal hopes and dreams. Pray for the families of patients as various countries experience another wave of resurgence. Ask God for His comfort, strength and protection for healthcare workers.
- Pray against anarchy and oppression in countries that experience political unrest. Pray for people groups facing brutality and beatings and for those imprisoned and for their families. Pray for accessibility to needed food and clean water for the poor, and security and shelter for the homeless.
- Pray for churches around the world to be a beacon of Christ's light to the world. Though believers may be sorrowful yet they will rejoice in the midst of suffering, having nothing yet possessing everything in God who gives us strength to stay hopeful and never helpless.

*There can be miracles, when you believe. Though hope is  
frail, it's hard to kill. Who knows what miracles you can  
achieve  
When you believe, somehow you will.  
(Stephen Shwartz)*

**If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly  
contact the pastoral care team via:**

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