

## **A HEALTHY FEAR OF GOD**

*“Serve the LORD with fear*

*And celebrate his rule with trembling.” (Psalms 2:11)*

### **REFLECTION**

Psalms 2 speaks of the futility of anyone or any power who tries to defy God. No matter what human beings may do to oppose the way of the Lord, or to usurp his reign, such attempts will end in misery. A wiser way of relating to God is not to rebel against him or to disobey him; it is to find the humility to “fear and celebrate his rule.” To fear God, in the biblical sense, is to revere him. It is to worship him and to accept that he is indeed the Almighty God and there is no one greater than him. At the bottom line, the biblical teaching of fearing God is to do things and think thoughts that will please him and bring honour to his name. Unlike unhealthy fear which is crippling, biblical fear is liberating and the bonus is that the one who fears God will receive wisdom from him which will add more years to that person’s life. *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.”* (Proverbs 9:10-11)

### **PRAYER**

*“Abba Father, we confess that sometimes we get our bearings in life wrong. We are fearful, in unhelpful or unhealthy ways, of illness and death. We are paralyzed by fear of losing out in our consumerist society. Such fear pushed us to seek guidance from false gods and to adopt selfish and superstitious practice. Free us from such negative fear and grant us the courage to fear you, in the biblical sense, by honouring you, worshipping you, and above all, loving you in whatever we do. In the name of Jesus, Amen.”*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Praise and thank God for guiding the 45th session of the Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC). Among other things, the delegates elected Rev. Stanley Chua as the new President of TRAC, Dr. Cheah Fung Fong as the Vice-President, and Mr. Henry Tan as the TRAC Lay Leader. Pray that our Lord will direct and empower the new team of leaders to

inspire and lead member churches to new level of numerical increase and qualitative growth in spirituality and discipleship.

- Pray for our personal relationship with God. Ask God to help us check our own spiritual health – have we neglected our prayer life, studying God’s word, attending to personal and corporate worship, and sharing the Good News of Jesus with others? Approach God for forgiveness for our shortcomings and pray that we will find the rhythm and delight in praying, reading the Bible, worshipping and witnessing.
- COVID-19 has turned the world upside down. People have been talking about having to adjust to a new normal. It is likely that some of the old routines and expectations before the outbreak of the pandemic will no longer be viable even after the pandemic is over. Yet we pray that we will not be hasty in discarding time-tested practices, spiritual exercises and God-honouring values; especially those values and practices which will keep the traditional family strong, promote cohesion in our multi-religious society and provide trustworthy moral compass to help us overcome pitfalls in life.
- Lift up to God people who have been distressed by reduced pay, loss of job, and having to cope with changing working environment. For those who are unemployed, pray that they will find a stable job. For those who are stressed out, pray for restoration of mental and spiritual well-being. Pray that God will help world leaders, scientists and economists to turn around the ailing world economy and find accessible and affordable vaccine to stop the spread of COVID-19.

*“Turn your eyes upon Jesus.  
Look full in his wonderful face.  
And the things on earth  
will grow strangely dim  
in the light of his glory and grace.”  
(Helen Howarth Lemmel)*

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

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