

PRAYER BULLETIN #78, 27Jan2021

IN FOR THE LONG HAUL

*"Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."
Heb. 10:35,36*

REFLECTION

The believers in the Epistle to the Hebrews faced many hardships and challenges because of their faith in God. Some were imprisoned, others had their possessions confiscated, while others publically shamed. Relief or deliverance was nowhere in sight. The temptation to forsake their faith in Christ was real. Indeed, it was a difficult time for them.

Yet, the writer of this epistle encouraged the believers to hold on and not to waver in their faith, but to continue to believe and live their lives as God would want them to. This is because there is a purpose and goal in their suffering and God has prepared a greater reward for them. Heb. 11 consists of a list of "heroes" who were commended for their endurance in faith through challenging times even though some did not receive their reward on earth. Thus, hang on to the end.

Challenging times often disrupt our established routines and cause us to abandon the disciplined path in life and to look for easier way out. This is also true for us in our Christian faith. When we are faced with difficulties, we may give up or give in to temptations, compromises, excuses, etc. so that we don't have to suffer for our faith and for Christ. Are you discouraged by difficulties faced in life or impatient with how slow or how long things are taking to change and become better? Hang on in there because God knows and He sees our difficulties and challenges in life. He has a better plan and reward for us if we do not give up to settle for a lesser and easier way out.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, forgive us when we are met with challenges in life we compromise and settle for things lesser than what You would have purposed for us. Help us to know what Your truth such that we would remain faithful to You in our thoughts, heart's devotions and way of living. Refresh our vision of You and Your love for us that we may remain steadfast in faith, hope and love. This we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Thank God for His sustaining grace that has kept many of us protected and going even during this pandemic. Ask God for His forgiveness and mercy over the way we have responded to the crisis in negligence and selfish behaviour. May God open our minds to understand, hearts to feel, eyes to see the real needs in the world during this pandemic. May He also open our hands to meet the needs of those who are suffering.
- Pray for those who need God's sustaining grace to see them through personal challenges in life. Pray for the believers whose faith are tested that they may not give up and give in to temptations and compromise in the devotions to God. Ask God to strengthen them in their will and spirit to remain faithful to God regardless of their circumstances. If you know of anyone in particular, commit yourself to be their prayer partner. Encourage them by letting them know you are doing so.
- Pray for those who have yet to know God that through this crisis and in their challenging circumstances that they may come to know God. Pray for God's grace to work in their hearts that they may believe and make Jesus their personal Lord and Saviour. Pray them into God's kingdom.
- Pray for yourself and your family members that God would sustain your faith and keep you all in His love and grace. Pray for God to strengthen you as you remain faithful to Him. Ask God to raise your vision to see beyond this crisis and into what He is purposing to do in the lives of people and nations. God's mission goes on unhindered during this time of pandemic even though it may last for some time. Pray for insight as to how He would want you to live so that His purpose and message may be proclaimed and lives saved.

"Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines,

the produce of the olive fail

and the fields yield no food,

the flock be cut off from the fold

and there be no heard in the stalls,

yet I will rejoice in the Lord;

I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

God, the Lord, is my strength;

he makes my feet like the deer's;

he makes me tread on my high places."

Habbakkuk 3:17-19

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

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