

## PRAYER BULLETIN #93, 20Mar2021

### DEAD, YET ALIVE

*In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.*

*Rom.6:11,12*

#### REFLECTION

Death is something many of us don't like to talk about or look forward to. It speaks of pain and losses of something or someone dear to us. For some of us it could mean a loved one. For others it could be personal identity or self-worth. Yet, for others it is about unredeemable opportunities. Humans don't look forward to dealing with death or losses except when there is no sentimental values attached like an out-dated system or process of doing things or spoilt devices that have outlived their purposes and use.

However, there is another area where death is not quite appreciated widely – the dying of an old self. We are creatures of habits. Some habits are good and constructive, e.g. regular exercise, healthy diet, daily devotional time, consistent sleep patterns, etc. On the other hand, other habits are the opposite and if not dealt with can lead to the destruction of lives – habits of lying, gossiping, cheating, complaining, etc. which can lead on to developing lifestyles of addictions, e.g. gambling, drinking, pornography, drugs, etc. Once a habit or an addiction latches on, it would be very difficult to get rid of it. Death of such habit or addiction is the only answer if one desires to be free from the grasp of such a strong force. Yet, many people find it difficult to put to death such personal habits and cravings.

Death can only happen when we are willing to surrender ourselves to the lordship of Jesus Christ who has risen from the dead and conquered over every form of sin created by Satan. During this season of Lent, allow the Holy Spirit to use the practice of fasting to put to death the deeds of your old self and in the practice of following to help you surrender your life to Jesus Christ, so that in dying you may truly live.

#### PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, we don't always see death as something good for ourselves, yet it is necessary when it comes to our old self. But in You, dying is the way to life. Grant us the strength and grace to put to death that which displeases You and help us to live the life which You have promised us. We seek this in Your name. Amen.*

#### SUPPLICATION

- Are you facing a habit or addiction that you find it very difficult to get rid of even though you acknowledge it is not good for you? You don't have to feel ashamed or guilty and hide from God. He already knows. Come to Jesus and tell Him about it. Tell Him about your pain, struggles and helplessness, and your desire for help and deliverance. Be ASSURED that Jesus would not reject you. So, take the time to be honest with Him for He cares for you. Take the first step to surrender your life to Him. If it helps, talk to someone whom you trust and won't judge you about your struggles so that you don't face it alone.
- You may know of someone close who is caught in the grasp of some unhelpful/ destructive habits or addictions. Withhold your judgement/criticism, but put on Christ's compassion. Commit that person/s to God. Pray for God to intervene in his/her life so that they may experience His power of deliverance and freedom. Pray for opportunities to reach out to them with the love of Christ. Pray that you may be God's instrument to bring His love and grace to them.
- Pray for the Church that believers may be so keenly aware and discerning of the schemes and deceptions the evil one has laid out to ensnare and entrap God's people. Many may not even know and are caught up with habits and addictions, namely via their mobile devices, which subtly draw them away from God. Pray for an awakening of their spirit and mind to the schemes of the evil one and a resolve to follow after Christ instead of their handphones.
- Pray for the many people who have yet to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Though Christ constantly calls to them, many have yet to hear and respond to His voice. Pray for God to unstop the "ears" of their hearts and spirits that they may be able to recognize the Shepherd calling and be able to respond to Him. Pray for God to work His prevenient grace in each person's life so that they may be saved.

*For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.*

*Rom.6:14*

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

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