

3 POWERFUL WEAPONS

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

Romans 12:12

REFLECTION

We have experienced times of difficulty, discouragement and defeat. Such experiences can knock us down but we do not need to stay down. Instead we can rejoice in God who has given us three powerful weapons with the intent to enable and empower us in all our trials and tribulations (2 Cor 4:7) so that we may stand firm and move forward.

These three powerful weapons are hope against difficulty, patience in the face of discouragement and prayer in the midst of defeat and dejection. Rejoice, O believer! Jesus came that you may have life, life to the full. Jesus knows that in this world you will have troubles but we are to take heart for He has overcome the world (Jn 16:33).

God's plan is to prosper us and to grant us hope and a future (Jer 29:11-13). So, hold on to hope which can be found in Jesus alone, for He is the final authority who reigns far above all rule and authority, power and dominion not only in the present age but also in the age to come (Eph 1:21). Ask Him to fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with confidence by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom 15:13).

In the midst of life challenges, our faith can falter even as our own strength begins to crumble. But for King David he patiently waited on the Lord (Ps 40:1-3) because he knew God would hear his cry for mercy and help him in his time of need, just like a loving father who bends down and lifts up a little child to care for her (Hos 11:4).

God is close to the broken-hearted and draws near to those crushed in spirit (Ps 34:18). In the midst of defeat and failures we can still rejoice because of God's mercy and favour. When our feet slip, when we fall into envy, arrogance, greed or lust, when our flesh and heart fail, we remember and take comfort that God is still our strength and our portion forever (Ps 73:26). We belong to God and He cares for us. Even if we do fall we only need to look up to the cross to find His mercy ready to meet us at our point of need.

Therefore, take up these weapons God has given us to stand up against difficulty, discouragement and defeat! These

weapons that God has given us indeed have divine power to grant us hope and victory in Christ Jesus (2 Cor 10:4).

PRAYER

We rejoice in You, O God of Hope! We thank You that Your plans are to prosper us with hope and a future in You. Thank You that though challenges may come our way but You have armed us with weapons that will keep us firm and steadfast in You. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for those who are living in great difficulties and struggling in the midst of stress and strife. Pray for God's comfort, care and compassion to envelop those who feel shattered by these difficulties in life, that they may find hope and strength in God. Pray for those who are lacking of daily resources that tangible help such as free and regular supply of food may reach these needy families and individuals.
- Thank God for the provision of good housing in Singapore. Pray for the homeless who sleep in the rough around the world. Pray for safe havens to house such vagrants. Pray also for those working in Singapore and are separated from their families back home because of border closures.
- Pray for church counsellors, helplines, care centres and mental health agencies that provide support and care to those affected by the COVID pandemic. As care-givers need to be cared for as well, pray that they will receive the care they need as they look after those weighed down by worries, illness, and loneliness.
- Ask the Lord to raise up more believers who would pray and nurture consistent prayer lives that reflect a rich inner life of constant conversation, contact and communion with God. Pray for small prayer bands to be formed in communities such as homes, neighbourhood and workplace, with a deep hunger that seeks after God.

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

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

Email: wecare@brmc.org.sg

Contact: 6592 4011 or 6592 4012