

VACCINATION AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL PANDEMIC

"We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 1:3

REFLECTION

Christ's disciples in the early church faced widespread persecutions which brought with it fear, anxiety and uncertainty. Some were put to death for their faith in Christ. Even with fervent prayers, persecution persisted. Life was tough then.

In this present day fear, anxiety and uncertainty grip the hearts of not only Christians but the whole world also. Everyone is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic one way or other. Life is tough even now.

It has been more than a year since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Over 160 million people have been infected and 3.5 million have died from it. Many fear that they may be the next one in line. In spite of our best efforts, the spread of the coronavirus and mounting death toll keep getting worse. In such a situation, some may question if God is concerned with our well-being. They become distressed and lose hope. Another pandemic of a different nature appears which infect people's hearts with fear, doubt and uncertainty.

How do we get "vaccinated" against such spiritual and emotional pandemic? Today's scripture shows us that we can "vaccinate" our hearts against fear, doubt, anxiety and uncertainty by continually anchoring our faith, hope and love (1 Cor. 13:13) in Jesus Christ. No matter how ominous the pandemic situation may unfold, our lives with Christ and our trust in Him should be infused with faith, love and hope.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as the pandemic revisits us, our hearts weigh heavy with fear, anxiety and uncertainty. Yet, empower us to place our hope in You, dear Lord. Renew our minds according to the truth of Your Word, and transform our hearts with Your love. As we call to You in prayer, hear and answer us. As we give You our burdens, grant us Your peace. Even in our darkest moments of the pandemic, remind us continually that You have won the final victory and help us to stand firm in You for You are sovereign over all things. Your heavenly banquet awaits us to celebrate this victory in eternity. Let our lives be lived in faith according to Your truth, overflowing with Your love and abounding in hope. Amen

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for those afflicted with COVID-19, for speedy recovery and restoration. Ask God to protect the medical staff attending to the infected patients. Let them not become weary as they minister God's love and care to these patients.
- Pray for all who sustain this nation's economy through various businesses. May God keep them safe and bless their businesses and their employees.
- Pray for harmonious relationships to exist among neighbours and friends, ethnic races and religious faiths. Let our lives bear the witness of God's light and love in every community.
- Pray for God to nurture spiritual resilience in every individual and our households. Though we are restricted in our social movements, let faith, love and hope guide our interactions with each other.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.*

*In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

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

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