

SEEKING GOD'S PRESENCE

*For the LORD is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favour and honour;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.*

Psalm 84:11

REFLECTION

The psalmist might have faced many challenges in life which led him to reflect on being in a better place. His reflection brought out a deep yearning to be close to God and in His presence. *"Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you."* (v.4) Being in God's presence helped the psalmist to put things in perspective and enabled him to place his trust in God alone and for everything he needed; the psalmist acknowledged that God would strengthen him as he placed his trust in Him. *"Blessed are those whose strength is in You."* (v.5)

The psalmist concluded that it was better to be in God's presence than in anywhere else, and to trust God as his source of strength than trust in any earthly resources. God alone was his only hope. *"O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in You."* (v.12)

Are you faced with challenges in your life and don't know where or who to turn to? There is a safe place where you can go to and find solace and strength. It is in God's presence which is opened for us through our Lord Jesus Christ. You can enter in. You can speak to God about Your situation and call on Him for help and needed strength, for He *"bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless."* Come and seek the Lord, regardless who you are, what you have done or not done, what you have been through, etc. God is so much bigger than all these and He welcomes you to His presence, to be cleansed, to be restored, to be strengthened, to be with Him. God invites you to seek His presence.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, forgive us when we turn to the world to seek solace and solutions whenever we are in trouble instead of seeking for Your presence and direction first. You alone know the best way forward. Help us learn how to be still before You, listen to Your voice and heed Your guidance, that we may walk blamelessly before You. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Read Ps 84 once through slowly and repeat the reading again. Which word/s or phrase/s seem to stand out for you? What do you think would the Lord be wanting to say to you concerning that word or phrase? What kind of response would He be desiring of you? Turn your reflection and response as a prayer unto the Lord. Then rest in the Lord's presence, knowing that He is gracious and merciful towards you.
- Do you know of someone who may be facing challenges in life and don't know where or who to turn to? Pray for this person that God would lead them into His presence where they can learn to put their trust in Him. Pray for them to know Him as the God who saves and in His presence they can find true security.
- Pray for Singapore and the nations around the world as we all manage the spread and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many nations are visited by second and third waves of infections. Pray for vaccines to be accessible to the nations, especially the poorer ones, that are most hard-hit by this pandemic. Pray for the leaders of these nations to be wise in managing the spread of the pandemic.
- Pray for the nations that are facing wars and civil unrest in addition to the pandemic. Pray for the leaders and people of these nations to awaken to the real problems and needs and to address them effectively rather than resorting to violence and retaliation. Pray for calmness of mind and hearts so that people would not behave irrationally or inconsiderately towards one another. Pray for God's peace to preside over the troubled communities around the world.

*The Lord is close to the broken hearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all;
He protects all his bones,
not one of them will be broken.*

Ps.34:18,19

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