

## **PLUS SIZE RESTORATION**

*And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.  
1 Peter 5:10*

### **REFLECTION**

Whatever our thoughts and arguments about “suffering”, its nature, its origins, its causes and its outcomes, we can be clear about one thing: “SUFFERING” IS REAL! It is par with the course for life and living. We can’t simply deny it, wish it away, call it by any other name or rationalize it philosophically. Perhaps the appropriate question for us who love God and obey His commands is then: how does He want us to see “suffering”?

In his letter to fellow believers scattered throughout Asia Minor, the Apostle Peter provides counsel and insights on how they should respond to the “suffering” they were experiencing. He closes his letter not only with an encouragement that their “suffering” will be brief, but with the insight that God has a purpose for what they were going through. That purpose? A PLUS SIZE restoration. To “restore” is to “bring back to or put back into a former or original state”. But there is a PLUS SIZE: “strong, firm and steadfast”. We need to spend time reflecting on what is this PLUS SIZE and make it real in our lives.

When we have experienced God leading us through and delivering us from “suffering”, we can grow in our convictions to trust in Him. Our confidence in Him for the days ahead becomes fortified. We become “steadfast”, standing firm in place, not wavering or budging, calmly holding our position and following it through with determination. We can have peace in our hearts and certainty in our spirit. And the best of it all about this PLUS SIZE is a promise from God Himself who will make it so, NOT dependent solely on our efforts and our discipline. Now wouldn’t we want to see that happening in our lives?

### **PRAYER**

*Almighty God, my Heavenly Father, I thank You for this Promise in the midst of the suffering that I am going through. Not only will You restore me, You will transform me to be strong, firm, and steadfast. As I place my life and time in Your hand, I ask for eyes of faith and confidence of heart to look out for opportunities to work this through. I pray that You will journey with me and show Your marvelous work in my life. In Jesus’ Name, I pray, AMEN.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Take the time to thank God for sustaining you through these days of anxieties and uncertainties. Pray for courage, wisdom and discernment to seek out the positive impact of these anxieties and uncertainties on our lives and life-styles. Pray with confidence as you write down the areas and issues. Commit them to God for His marvelous work of restoration and transformation.
- Do you know of anyone who is going through similar struggles? Pray for them. Better yet, contact them, first to link up and to really keep in touch. Then, ask how they are faring. If the opportunities arise, share with them what you have done and encourage them to do likewise. There may be common issues and interests that can become touch points for future conversations.
- Please pray for our WeCare hotlines, especially those who are manning the systems and following up on those who have called. Do keep in mind that they are also human being, susceptible to anxieties and uncertainties like you and I. Pray that our God will sustain them, keep them safe, and give them the steadfastness to speak, to encourage and to help.
- Let’s remember our brothers and sisters in Malaysia as they go through “Movement Control Order”. Let’s join them in prayer over their situation, the economic difficulties that they are facing anew, their mental distress and the new disruptions to their daily routines. May God shower His solace and cover them with His peace. May God sustain their faith and trust. May God equip them to remain steadfast and move them to help others, and to demonstrate His love to others with whatever resources they have.

*Steadfast is the attitude you have when you say,  
“No matter what my feelings tell me,  
or how dark the circumstances,  
I will put myself in the Lord’s hands and trust Him.”  
Dr Harold J Sala*

**If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:  
Email: [wecare@brmc.org.sg](mailto:wecare@brmc.org.sg)  
Contact: 6592 4011 or 6592 4012**