

“UNSEEING” FAITH

*“And without faith it is impossible to please him,
for whoever would draw near to God
must believe that he exists and
that he rewards those who seek him.”*

Hebrews 11:6

REFLECTION

*“Faith” is a fine invention
For Gentlemen who see!
But Microscopes are prudent
In an Emergency!
- Emily Dickinson*

To the renowned 19th Century American poet Emily Dickinson, “*faith*” is an unnecessary, impractical “invention” which ought not to be preferred over empirical, scientific knowledge. In this short and catchy poem, she attacks “*blind faith*” which disregards the evidences one may gather with one’s senses. Writing in a cultural milieu of unexamined and superstitious religiosity, Dickinson had a point. I am afraid however, that in our current culture, we are prone to the opposite extreme by allowing ourselves to be dictated so much by the senses that we leave little room for “*unseeing faith*”.

Surely we are not called to abandon our God-given reason and good sense as we go about our lives and ministry, but Scripture is clear that faith involves an unwavering trust in the absence of sight. Hebrews 11:6 clarifies the faith of Enoch, one who pleased God by his faith in God’s presence and unfailing moral governance.

When the leaders of BRMC first felt the nudge of the Holy Spirit to begin a grassroots ministry, it was inconceivable to them that 25 years later this ministry would be transformed into a mission hub at Bukit Batok, ministering not only to the local poor and needy, but also disciple effectively a growing migrant community that stretches island-wide. Faith for them then was to do the will of God, not knowing the full and glorious vision that God had in mind. The history of Oasis BRMC Mission is likewise filled with instances where God’s people trusted in His unfailing faithfulness in the face of impossible odds - depressions, disasters, divorces and even untimely deaths. There were numerous occasions where God’s people could not see the end in sight, but only faith in a good and merciful God who evidently sustained them. Yet, they trusted and they hoped, and the Lord came through in way unimaginable for them.

PRAYER

Gracious God, make us a people of faith. Keep us from over-reliance in cold, calculative human wisdom. Let us not shy away from obedience when the cost seems high or the returns seem little, but let us be bold in our living knowing that You will faithfully reward those who seek to please You.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for ourselves to maintain a childlike trust and wonder in God’s faithfulness, especially when faced with troubling circumstances. May our response to crises demonstrate to the world that we are a people belonging to God.
- Pray for the many believers at Oasis BRMC Mission who face challenging life situations like debilitating illness, uncertain immigration status, low income and prohibitive expenses. Pray that our brothers and sisters will look to the God who is present, who sees their plight, who provides for their needs, and who rewards them for their faith and obedience.
- Pray for our BRMC church leaders to seek first of all to please God in all their deliberations and decisions, so that whenever having to choose between practical prudence and trustful obedience, obedience will triumph and God will always be glorified.
- Uphold the staff at Oasis BRMC Mission. Thank God for their dedication in befriending and attending to families and children from lower-income group who came to our centre at Bukit Batok for help. Ask God to bless their outreach works and grant them success in offering practical help and in sharing the Gospel with the families and youth.

*We trust, instead, in the power of God
and the strength of the Holy spirit
and know that our lives have meaning and power and
eternality
because God’s Spirit is greater than
that of the spirit of this world.
- Beverly J. Van Kampen.*

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

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