

CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER

*"Until now you have asked nothing in my name.
Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."*

John 16:24

REFLECTION

This was something new to the disciples - asking of the Father using Jesus' name. It is direct access to the Father made available because of Jesus' death and resurrection from the dead. Doing so would help the disciples know that they belong to God, God knows them and hears them. It speaks of the intimate relationship they have with the Father through Jesus the Son. What a privilege! What an honour! Knowing this and experiencing it in their daily prayer life would bring unspeakable joy to them because they didn't have to approach God by any other human means or representation. This was some needful assurance for them especially when Jesus spoke to them regarding the impending season of persecution that they would face after He ascended to heaven. They needed the assurance so that they would not lose faith and be in despair.

We may not face persecution like those of Jesus' disciples during their time. But we do encounter personal challenges in life that can cause us to despair and lose faith in God. What do we do when we find ourselves in such predicament? Who can we turn to for help? Friends, pastors, small group leader, parents, hotline assistance, etc.?

Jesus' words of assurance and provision still applies to us today. He encourages us to speak to our heavenly Father using His name because He has opened the way for us to come before our Father directly. Our Father knows our needs and He listens to our prayers. He assures us of our relationship with Him even through the means of prayer. The disciples asked for courage to speak out in Jesus' name; God answered. They sought for Peter's release from prison; God delivered him. God may not have answered every prayer according to their requests, but He listened and answered according to His good purpose and will, and they were joyful knowing that they belonged to Him. Jesus is encouraging us to ask of the Father, believing that He will answer according to His good purpose and will for us, and that our joy may be full, knowing that we also belong to Him.

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for the grace and mercy You have granted us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Draw us near to You each day with the assurance that You do hear us when we pray. Grant us the confidence to ask knowing that You do answer according to Your good purpose and will for us. Help us to remain faithful to You and joyful in our

hearts even in challenging times knowing that we belong to You always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Commit our Pastors (Ps. Wendy, Ps. Daniel, Ps. Lawrence, Ps. Jeremy, Ps. Benjamin, Ps. Kai Ming, Ps. Stephen and Ps. Jun) at BRMC to God's grace and protection. Pray for Ps. Wendy, the new Pastor-in-Charge, as she shepherd this community on the hill. Pray for the in-coming Ps. Kai Ming as takes on a new posting and responsibilities. Pray for Ps. Jeremy as he takes on a new pastoral role at HVMC.
- Prayer is more than just asking for things from God. It reflects a relationship we have with God. Take the time to reflect on your relationship with our heavenly Father. How is it? Talk to Him about it. What would He have to say about it? What would He want to say to you as His child? Conclude by committing yourself to Him once again.
- Do you know of someone who is facing challenges in life and doesn't know God or have a personal relationship with Him such that he/she could turn to Him and seek Him? Pray for this person. Pray for open doors so that you may encourage this person to turn to God and talk to Him about his/her problems. Beyond answered prayers, may this person enter into a living relationship with our heavenly Father.
- Talk to our heavenly Father about the local spreading of the COVID pandemic. It's easy to complain and blame others for their carelessness and indifference. Ask for God's mercy and intervention to curb the spread of the pandemic and also to touch and change the hearts and minds of the people.
- Pray for the difference countries facing the repeated waves of the COVID pandemic. Some are ahead with their vaccination programme while others are lagging far behind. Pray for thoughtfulness, carefulness and kindness to be demonstrated among countries and communities. Pray for the situation at the Olympics in Japan, that the organizers, athletes and volunteers know how to conduct themselves in a safe manner for the good of every person and the citizens in Japan.

*Let us then approach
the throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace
to help us in our time of need.*

Heb.4:16

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