

PRAYER BULLETIN #141, 04SEPT2021

WHAT IS YOUR CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER BASED ON?

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

Hebrew 4:16

REFLECTION

"Confidence" is an attitude of mind and heart that leads to action, with descriptions like: "faith or belief", "the quality or state of being certain" and "relation of trust or intimacy". In this often-quoted verse on praying to God, we are asked to be upfront with Him and to lay bare our vulnerabilities before Him. There is a certainty in our hearts that He neither rejects us nor judges us. There is faith that He knows and understands our struggles and our pains. And there is trust that He empathises with our feelings. We are, therefore, assured that He will listen and respond.

For some of us, however, He does not seem to be listening. The situations we are in remains unchanged or worsened, spiralling us into distress and despair. Well-meaning friends gather, quoting the Bible, asking us to confront unconfessed sins, challenging us to have more faith to pray fervently and offering time-tested solutions to address the situations instead of waiting for God to respond. Our "confidence" is shaken. Doubts about God, His love for us and His promises begin to surface. We may even feel that God is punishing us, especially when we compare with others whose prayers have been answered.

In such times, let us remind ourselves what "confidence" should be. It may have been skewed by our expectations that God will answer the way we ask and according to our time-table. We may have turned God into a genie at our bidding. Our "confidence" in God should instead be built on how well we know Him, and how intimate we relate to Him in our lives and lifestyles. It is within that intimacy that we pray confidently, knowing that He understands what we need and trusting in His ways and His timing to meet those needs.

PRAYER

Almighty God, my Heavenly Father, thank You for Your promise that I can approach Your throne of grace in all honesty. I know You will not reject me but listen to my plea. I know You understand what I am going through. I come to You then with confidence that You will help me in time of need. Father, please also grant me opportunities to build an intimate relationship with You, that I may strengthen my trust in Your ways and Your timing. In Jesus' Name, I pray, AMEN.

SUPPLICATION

- Do you have any need to present to God and ask Him to meet it? Approach God confidently and ask. Write down what you have presented. At the same time, write down

your understanding of "confidence" in praying. While you know that God will hear and answer, do you trust His ways and His time-table? With "confidence" based on the intimacy of your relationship with God, what would you do to build that intimacy? Perhaps, you can also take time to write down what those steps are and pray for courage and the will to take them.

- Is there someone you know in BRMC or in another Christian community who are seeking God to answer for certain needs or concerns? Would you come alongside this person to pray? Like the 4 friends who carried the paralytic and dug their way through the roof so that they could lower him to meet Jesus and be healed (Mark 2:4), there is no greater privilege than to carry someone by intercessory prayer to the throne of Grace. Better yet, ask God for ways to work with this person to build intimate relationship with God so that his or her confidence in Him may also be strengthened.
- There is a PRAYER MINISTRY in BRMC. In spite of the pandemic and its restrictions to gather on site, this Ministry continues to organize large group gatherings to pray: ASK (1st Mondays, even number calendar months) and ABLAZE (1st Mondays, odd number calendar months). There is also various prayer chat groups on platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram that disseminate prayer requests and testimonies. Would you consider joining this Ministry and its activities?
- As we move into ways to live with the pandemic as part of the "new normal", let's take time to pray for those who are yet to be vaccinated or who have chosen not to be vaccinated, some of whom are our loved ones or may be in the Christian community. Although we may not agree with each other, let us not "demonize" or ostracise each other. Instead, let us try to understand each other's point of view and pray with each other. Regardless of our vaccination status, let us also pray that God will keep us all safe, and that God will protect us from serious complications even if we are infected.

"Prayer is much more than words...It is an expression of the heart towards God.

It is an experience, a relationship, not an activity."

Dr Bill Bright

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

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