

## **UNDERSTAND AND PRAY**

*"May you be strengthened with all power,  
according to his glorious might,  
for all endurance and patience with joy,"  
Colossians 1:11*

### **REFLECTION**

When the Apostle Paul received reports about the faith of the believers in Colosse, he prayed that God would fill them with all knowledge and understanding of God's will for them so that they may live their lives in such a way that would please Him all the more. (Col.1:9-10) In addition, Paul asked that they be "strengthened with all power" from God that they may be able to endure all circumstances with patience and joy (v.11).

The believers gathered in Colosse was a young church that faced a steep learning curve to remain faithful to God in the midst of difficult challenges. Paul was concerned that heresies and persecution would detract them from being faithful in following after God. Paul saw the danger and knew the need. He asked that God would grant them more grace so that they would be able to remain faithful to Him, and this comes from a deep understanding of His will for them and how they should live their lives, and also the in-filling of the Holy Spirit that would empower them to do so. Paul understood and he prayed.

Do we understand the times and situations that we find ourselves in even this current pandemic? Do we recognize the dangers that often work subtly to challenge the foundations of our faith in God and cause us to compromise or give up in following after Him? The pandemic has certainly brought changes to the way we used to gather for regular worship on Sundays. But have you noticed what else have changed to the Christian community? Are they helpful and pleasing to God or do they grieve Him?

How about your personal life and faith journey in God? Have you noticed any changes in your life, especially those related to who you are, your character, your faith, your commitment to God, etc.? How would you describe these changes? Would these changes please or grieve God? Have you been closer to God or been drifted far away from Him? What led to such changes?

In view of such challenges and changes, how would that lead you to pray for yourself and for your church? Take the time to reflect with God and allow Him to show you that you may understand clearly. Then ask Him to lead you into praying for what is in His heart for you. for your church and for your nation.

### **PRAYER**

*Heavenly Father, so much has taken place since the onset of the Covid pandemic in this world. Situations and circumstances have changed. Even our faith in You has been challenged. Forgive us when we have allowed excuses, anxiety, distractions, complacencies, etc. to keep us from remaining faithful to You. We ask that You would once again strengthen us with the understanding of Your will and purpose and fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may remain steadfast in You, Your word and Your mission, In Jesus' name we ask, Amen.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Pray for yourself. How would you describe where you are with God currently? How has the pandemic affect your relationship with God? Has it brought you closer or push you further away from God? Talk to God about it honestly; He is able patient and gentle in spirit. Understanding where you are in your relationship with Him, what would you hope that He would do for you? Offer your thoughts and hopes to Him in prayer.
- Pray for others. Do you know of someone who has remained steadfast in his/her faith even in difficult times? Stop to give thanks to God for him/her. Pray the prayer that Paul prayed for the Colossians over this person. Do you know of someone who has been affected by the present crisis and has drifted away from God? Pray for steadfastness of spirit that they may remain faithful to God.
- Pray for the nation. What are some of the concerns Singapore is facing that can affect the community, faith, economy, health, etc.? Singapore was once known as the Antioch of Asia. How has this "calling" been challenged or changed by the pandemic? Pray for the churches in Singapore to remain steadfast in their witness to the regional countries.
- Pray for the World. There are many challenges and changes happening in various communities around the world. We hear of more unpleasant events and incidents than those we can rejoice and celebrate about. Pray for the various leaders to work together for the common good of the communities they represent, that people may live safely and in peace in an already broken world.

*Spiritual leadership is the power  
to change the atmosphere by one's presence,  
the unconscious influence that  
makes Christ and spiritual things real to others.*

*J. Oswald Sanders*

**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**