

## **FAITH WORKS**

*"So also faith by itself,  
if it does not have works, is dead"  
James 2:17*

### **REFLECTION**

The maxim "*actions speak louder than words*" is commonly used to describe how actions are more impactful than mere lip service. What we do speaks louder than what we say we will do. Our actions reveal what we believe. Our faith in a God of love and grace prompts us to be loving and gracious to others. We are motivated to demonstrate our faith in loving deeds. Where once we did not know God, we acted out of selfish desires. But now that we know God, we behave from a different standpoint – one of working out our faith which stems from our love and devotion to God. Faith works are done in response to God and out of the overflow of God's perfect love that drives out all fear.

As we serve God in works of faith, we must be mindful of our motivations. It is good to spend time in silence and solitude asking the Holy Spirit to search our hearts to reveal to us what true service is. We do not serve God to earn merit or to look good. Neither do we engage in faith works to earn God's love and salvation. God has freely given these to us and we are in right standing with God as long as we confess Jesus as our Lord and Saviour and devote ourselves to Him. We have been saved by grace through faith. Moreover, we are not to do works of faith so that we may boast about our abilities or our importance.

Believers can live self-centered lives if they do not offer themselves to others and to God in faith. Believers can be merely consumers of the faith without opening their hearts to the needs of others in the church community or turning a blind eye to the needs of society. Our faith in God is transformational and our acts of service are merely a natural sign or evidence of the new heart and spirit that God has given us. Good works done in faith are often alluded to in the bible as "fruit." Faith bears fruit in the believer that everyone can see as an outward reflection of an inner transformation.

Take the time to consider the following questions. What good works has God been stirring in your heart to do? What "dead" works might God be asking you to repent of? What needs to change or be transformed?

### **PRAYER**

*Father God, stir us towards good works and acts of service as a demonstration of our faith in You. Help us reach out to those in need that they may see You in our faith and lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Thank God for churches and para-church organizations that have stepped up in these pandemic times to reach out to the hurting and the hungry. Pray that the last, the lost and the least may find God even through our faith works.
- Ask the Lord to send out workers into His harvest field such as the local and overseas missions ministries of BRMC. Pray for our outreach ministries such as Oasis (BRMC Mission @ Bt Batok), OSC Family Support Ministry, Migrant Workers ministry, 12th Coy Boys' Brigade, 84<sup>th</sup> Coy Girls Brigade, Christian Ministry to Schools, Indonesian Ministry, Filipino Ministry, Epworth Community Services, BRMC Kindergarten and Oldham Hall Ministry to the boarders.
- Thank God for the gift of salvation in Jesus. Pray for our pre-believing family members, colleagues and friends to be receptive to the message of Jesus. Pray for the Witness & Evangelism Ministry that organizes the Alpha Course in order to draw many to seek God and be saved. Pray for those seeking baptism and confirmation that God would pour His Spirit upon them in a powerful way and that they may rise with courage and faith to live the new life in Jesus.
- Thank God for all the volunteers in BRMC. May the Lord grant them hearts of devoted service, not looking for praises from men but willing to serve give sacrificially unto the Lord and His people. Pray for volunteers to rise up even from among our seniors, youths and children. May the Lord help us realize that we are never too old or too young to serve Him.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Eph. 2:8-9

***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)***

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