

## **THE BEST IS YET TO BE**

*"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."  
Philippians 3:13-14*

### **REFLECTION**

The Apostle Paul describes the mindset of a believer as: "forgetting what is behind" and "straining toward what is ahead." This mindset frames the way the believer manages his or her time and how he or she lives on earth.

When the believer "forgets what is behind", one is not bogged down and constrained by the past. Whatever experiences he or she had of God would not pre-determine or prejudice how God would work in the future. There is no such thing as re-living "the good old days" or expecting "same old, same old" responses from God. Meanwhile, the believer focuses on what is ahead: pressing forward, continuously moving on and making progress towards the goal, keeping in mind that "the best is yet to be". And what is this goal? In v 9-10 of the same chapter, the Apostle Paul describes it with 3 phrases: "a righteousness that comes from God and is by faith", "know Christ and the power of His resurrection" and "the fellowship of sharing in His suffering". While each phrase needs to be worked through in detail, it certainly speaks of what one knows of God, understands how He works and how one must live in order to be able to make continuous progress of that knowledge and understanding.

But how can this goal be related to prayer? First, there is a new direction to our prayers. We no longer become self-centered, praying only for ourselves. We pray for others. Second, there is a new content in our prayers. We no longer become self-sufficient, praying only for easy answers. We agonize over difficult issues and situations, seeking understanding on how to respond. Finally, there is a new objective for our prayers. We no longer become self-serving. We now seek to experience God's ways as a community.

### **PRAYER**

*Almighty God, my Heavenly Father, I thank You for setting a new direction, content and objective in my praying. Grant me with the courage to press forward, moving on and making progress on knowing You and understanding Your ways. Fill me with wisdom and discernment to know how to pray for and with others through difficult issues and situations. Lead me into fresh experiences of a relationship*

*with You as Father and God and with others. In Jesus' Name, I pray, AMEN.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Listen to yourself as you pray. Make notes of what you are praying for. Are you still repeating and focusing on the same issues each time you pray? Do they reflect an understanding of what the Apostle Paul describes as the mindset of the believer? For the New Year 2022, take time to work through what this mindset is, the impact that they should have on your lifestyles and how they show up in the way you pray.
- Also in 2022, will you commit to pray for and with another person who is not having an easy time - whether it be a medical condition, a difficulty in the workplace or a relationship, or over life-altering issues like infection and vaccination? Keep tabs as the situations develop as you pray. Do not pre-determine or limit how God works and respond. But do reflect on how they enlarge your understanding of God and how He works.
- For the New Year, and whenever the restrictions allow, make an effort to attend ON-SITE WORSHIP SERVICES. Being in God's house is quite different from being on "live stream". Make notes of how you feel when you are on site and how different it is compared to the worship services over your desk-top/mobile device? It may not be as vibrant and personal as pre-pandemic days, but, be assured that there IS a significant difference in experiences. Your praying and your worship are enriched when you are on-site and as part of a congregation.
- Into the year 2022, let's pray: "what can I do responsibly?" Not just about vaccination and booster shots. It's also the taking of precautions against infection. No short-cuts. No double standards. With what you do now growing into habits and social norms, let us see them as unforced shows of God's love for yourself and for others.

*"Our goal isn't activity, spiritual disciplines, Christian checklists, or proving our sincerity to God.*

*Our goal is knowing God, experiencing His presence, and walking in His ways."*

*Dustin Crowe, Pastor of Discipleship  
at Pennington Park Church, Indiana, USA*

**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**