

## GLORY AMIDST TROUBLE

*"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

2 Cor. 4:16-18

### REFLECTION

*"Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?"* These are lines in the old hymn *What a Friend we have in Jesus*. And the expected answer to these rhetorical questions is: Yes.

Yes, we will face trials, temptations, troubles. 2022 has barely begun, but there is little doubt that many of us are already facing burdens, hardships, or anxieties of some sort.

Thank goodness Scripture doesn't sugar-coat this, doesn't pronounce the fake news that all will always be well. The Bible tells us about *real life* - that in life, we will feel like 'outwardly we are wasting away'; that in life, we will sometimes face trouble, we will sometimes get tired, we will sometimes feel like things are just breaking down or falling apart around us.

And thank God, the Bible doesn't just stop there. God's Word shows us what God's *real life* really looks like. It tells us that what is real is not always visible. For example, our inner selves are really being renewed daily by God. That in reality, our troubles are but light, they are but momentary. For when we come to the finish line and see with our own eyes the glorious face of our Lord Jesus, that glorious reality outweighs and outshines all else. And that is *real life* in God.

And so the Scripture reminds us *"Therefore, we do not lose heart"*. Or, as the hymn goes: *"We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer"*. Thus, we will pray so that in the realities of life, we might encounter and experience what real life in God is.

### PRAYER

*Almighty God,  
whose Son gave us in Holy Communion a pledge of your  
saving love  
and a foretaste of your kingdom of justice and peace:  
strengthen your people in their faith, that they may  
endure the sufferings of this present time:  
in expectation of the glory to be revealed.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Collect in a Time of Trouble (Church of England)

### SUPPLICATION

- *"What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear"*. Take the time to repeat this sentence to yourself. Reflect on what it means for you. How will you respond to God based on your reflection? Give thanks to the Lord, who calls us his friends through Jesus Christ, and who bears our sins and griefs on the cross.
- *"What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer"*. Is there something you're bearing in your heart and mind that you find it hard to bring before God? Our good Father invites us to bring everything to him in prayer. So, don't hesitate to open up to our heavenly Father. It doesn't have to be in neat or perfect English, He understands the language of the heart, and nothing is too bad or too small for Him to handle.
- *"Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day"*. Do you know someone who is growing physical or mentally weak due to chronic illness or inevitable ageing? Pray that God will renew them inwardly in their spirit, and that they will not lose heart. Pray also for those who may be close to or living with them, that God may extend His grace upon them.
- That which is real is not always visible. Ask God to open your spiritual eyes to look beyond the observable, temporary and superficial, but unto his surpassingly glorious purposes and ways. Pray for the BRMC community and its leaders, that we may together live for God's glory in all we think, desire, say, and do.

*Haste, my soul, from grace to glory,  
armed by faith and winged by prayer;  
all but heaven is transitory,  
God's own hand shall guide you there.  
Soon shall end this earthly story,  
swift shall pass the pilgrim days,  
hope soon change to heavenly glory,  
faith to sight and prayer to praise.*

*"Jesus, I my Cross have Taken"*  
by Henry Francis Lyte

**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**