

PRAYER BULLETIN #226, 29JUN2022

PERSEVERING UNDER TRIAL

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12

REFLECTION

Don't give up!

This motivational phrase is often heard from coaches and mentors to motivate us to not throw in the towel but to press on. This encouragement is most effective when the pressure is at its peak. When things are working well, hearing our friends tell us not to give up sounds more like well-wishing that we may continue to find favor in our business and trade. When things are starting to fall apart, those same three words force us to consider a simple truth: where we are now is not where we will be finally.

It is important to be able to look forward to what lies ahead because if our effort were to yield no results, our endeavour would be hopeless and futile; we should then be discouraged in persevering. But if the goal is worthwhile and achievable, then our momentary troubles and our present obstacles pale in comparison to the glory that comes with the victory of perseverance.

For us as Christian, is the goal in persevering under trial worthwhile? The answer is a resounding yes! For it is the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. Such a crown bears with it eternal glory even as a reward for temporal suffering.

Even as it is worthwhile, we must ask if persevering under trial is achievable. We must rest in the promises of God that we are given trials and tests which are passable (1 Cor. 10:13), and that God will be faithful to finish the work that He began in us (Phil. 1:6). God who sent His very Spirit to journey with us has given every Spiritual gift for us to finish the race, if only we would run with Him to the end.

So then, when we hear the cry of the Holy Spirit saying to us, "Don't give up!" we gain every confidence that what God has promised is worthy and achievable. Let us then press on and not give up in following Jesus. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let us be faithful in obeying the Great Mission of God. Let us meet the obstacles before us with the assurance and confidence that, as children of God, nothing can stand against us when God is indeed is for us.

PRAYER

Our Merciful God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to show us the perfect example of persevering in difficult times of trial. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit that grants us the same power to overcome sin and death in our lives. Grant us the strength and will, O LORD, to obey You with boldness, and to pursue You with love and resilience, as we love You with sincerity. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for peace in the world – wars in Ukraine and in other parts of the world have caused global inflation and economic problems in nations such as Sri Lanka and Pakistan. May we in such time of trial not allow selfishness to prevail but pray for God's generosity and mercy to shine ever brighter through His church and believers.
- Pray for the Covid-19 situation in Singapore, as measures have opened up. May those who are vulnerable be granted safety by all who are privileged enough to be vaccinated.
- We pray for many who are going through transitions in work at this time in Singapore for both citizens and immigrants. May harmony and equity prevail in the changing tide of the world.
- We pray that the body of Christ will not be enslaved to a spirit of fear but one of clear identity and purpose in the world today. May the church be an example of persevering in the faith with our God who never fails.

*"It's not that I'm so smart,
it's just that I stay with problems longer."
Albert Einstein*