

expect them and at the most inopportune moments. Most have come to accept unhappy circumstances as part and parcel of life. No one owes us a living, and life is not always fair. So much of it, it seems, depends on timing and luck, if not chance.

While we may not fully subscribe to that fatalistic view of life, we do hold certain assumptions about God and His relationship with us. We expect Him to bless and protect us. So when an unexpected tragedy or calamity hits us, we often react negatively and in disbelief. We're disillusioned and disappointed that He had failed us. We don't expect Him to allow misfortunes to hit us. We expect Him to do better!

The Jews felt the same when Nebuchadnezzar razed their beloved temple to the ground and forcibly dragged them into captivity. God suddenly disappeared from their spiritual radar. Deep within, they agonised, "How could God, if He's our loving God, allow this to happen?"

Their theological assumptions had led them to believe that God would never allow them to be hauled away from their hallowed city Jerusalem to idolatrous Babylon. When that happened, their misplaced faith turned into disillusionment and distrust. When God promised them a future and a hope, they thought it was just a vague promise. It never occurred to them that God would bring them back to their homeland.

When you look at their reactions, you'll realise their assumptions had given them two false impressions:

1. that God would never allow bad things to happen to them
2. that God had deserted them and could never restore them.

We too face the same danger when we slavishly and foolishly subscribe to misleading assumptions about God's character. The Jews were wrong in expecting God to do what He didn't promise and in rejecting what He really promised. God, being who He is, is immutable. He can't do what He doesn't promise regardless our belief. But He will fulfil what He promises.

Life may not be kind to you at the moment. You may feel as if you're in exile, forgotten and left alone. Remember this: God never forgets. Life's plans may be hard to swallow. But in reality, those are God's good plans for you, meant "to prosper you, and not to harm you." David's words should bring us comfort: "Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life" (Psalm 23:6, *The Message*).

Pastor Song Cheng Hock

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME YOU and are glad that you have come to worship with us this morning. If this is your first visit, please fill in the Visitor Card so that we may keep in touch with you.

REMINDERS

Please remember to park your car at **Bedok South Secondary School** so that we do not inconvenience our neighbours who have been very understanding.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SWITCH OFF YOUR HANDPHONES!

PRAYER PAGE

1. Please pray for **Pastor Neville** as he brings God's Word to us this morning.



2. Pray for **the worship team**, the **audio/visual support group**, as well as the **ushers**. Pray that God will continually refresh them as they experience deeper worship themselves, leading others to worship God in spirit and in truth.

3. Please pray for our congregations in **Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Penang and Johor Baru**. Pray especially for the seven new believers who were baptised last Sunday in Ho Chih Minh. Pray also for Ps. Vinh' son who was hurt in a motorcycle accident last month.

4. Pray for our own **congregation too**, that the Lord will raise new leaders from our midst to help build and grow the church. Pray for the various ministries in our congregation, for the children's ministry, the teachers and helpers, the youth and their leaders, the young adults and for ourselves that we may be used by the Lord to serve Him and one another.

5. Pray for the various cell groups, cell groups leaders and for more members to be involved in the cell groups.

BE PRAYERFUL AND LOVING

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. (1 Pet 4:7-8)

- a) Our Lord Jesus is returning! Pray for alertness and readiness!
- b) Ask the Lord to give you a desire to pray – to commune

with Him, to learn from Him and to do His will.

c) Pray that we may be a loving congregation – ready to look to the interest of others, to forgive and receive forgiveness, to be free from hypocrisy and superficiality.

d) If you have not resolved a conflict with someone, pray for an opportunity to do so. Blessed are the peacemakers.

The Fear of God (Adapted)

Often time we think we are wise in our own eyes with our worldly wisdom, and we live this presumption to our own peril. Scripture clearly tells us where wisdom comes from - "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*" (Proverbs 9:10).

To fear God is not quite the same as to be afraid of Him. The fear of the Lord is a reverential and worshipful fear of God. It is a fear that comes from the knowledge and encounter of His awesomeness and holiness that causes us to tremble and restrains us from committing evil. We restrain from evil not only because it is the right thing to do but also because we value this relationship with God. The Holy Spirit puts the desire to be holy in our own lives too so that we value holiness more than the temporal satisfaction that sin provides. When we have a healthy fear of the Lord, sin cannot prevail or dominate us.

From "Our Daily Bread"

*God dwells in light and holiness,
In splendor and in might;
It's godly fear of His great power
That helps us do what's right. - D. De Haan*

**Mankind's limited potential
highlights God's limitless power.**

Last week's Memory Verse: "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night." - **Psalm 1:2**

This week: "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him." - **Prov 30:5**

Worship Attendance

Last Sunday , (15 Feb. 09)	(09.00 am)	45
	(11.00 am)	65
Total :		110