

in the body or away from it" (2 Cor 5:9). In other words, we must strive to do the best we can for the Lord, and leave the results to Him.

Sometimes, we may experience victories early and easily. When we achieve success with relative ease, we're always confronted with two common but deadly dangers: pride and complacency. The moment we think we're the best, true failure beckons. We may let our guard down and not work as hard as before to further improve ourselves.

Success is an ongoing process of trying and overcoming odds and defeats. We need to reframe our concept of success and recultivate our attitude towards loss. Loss, by itself, is not tragic. What is tragic is the inability to learn the lessons which loss presents, and to succumb to a defeatist mindset.

Our achievement-oriented culture has given loss and defeats a bad name. We often equate loss as shameful failure and may resent encountering our own trials. So instead of persevering and riding it out, we opt for the short term relief by medicating and anesthetising it. But it's the very struggle, not the absence of it, that builds character, strength and inner reliance on God. People who have made it through than avoid adversity can attest to this.

There's no shame in losing or suffering defeat. Like fire, losses have the power to transform or devastate a person from within – to detoxify and instruct the inner being or ruin it. Sure, the experience of loss humbles us. But it also activates and enhances our awareness of what is truly important.

Whatever setbacks that come our way, we must never stop learning and trying, even doing those things we think we can't do. Fear has a way of diminishing our courage, restricting our resolve, limiting our beliefs and undermining our faith.

Israel was caught in that gutter of fear when confronted by the Philistine army and the foulmouthed, imposing giant Goliath. Not David. He was too young to go to battle. But when he heard Goliath's taunts and threats and saw the great fear stirred within the men of Israel, he provocatively asked, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (1 Samuel 17:26b).

David did the unexpected and unthinkable - he volunteered to fight Goliath. Was it impetuous youthful arrogance and foolhardiness that stirred him? Hardly. It was his passion and love for the Lord. He went in the name of the Lord, and with a stone and a sling shot, he slew Goliath and instilled courage in Israel. If there's a seemingly insurmountable problem staring down at you at this moment, stop and refocus. Face it squarely. You can overcome it in the name of the Lord!

Pastor Song Cheng Hock

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all guests who have come to worship with us this morning. If this is your first visit, please fill in the Visitor Form so that we can keep in touch with you.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SWITCH OFF YOUR HANDPHONES!

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.

July 26th will be our Evangelistic/Fellowship Sunday. This will give us an opportunity to bring friends and relatives who do not know Christ to come and join us for fellowship and to hear the gospel preached.

Fellowship lunch is open to contribution. Please see Sis. Magdalene. **PLEASE PRAY FOR SOULS TO BE SAVED**

SPECIAL APPEAL

Revival Center (Ps Tony Tan) has made an appeal for funds for their new building. **We will be receiving a second bag on Sunday July 26th** for them. There is no obligation to give but please pray and as the Lord moves your heart give willingly.

PRAYER ITEMS



1. **Please pray for Pastor Song** as he brings God's Word to us this morning, that we will all be ministered to by the Holy Spirit.
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 and to encounter Him, to the end that their lives be transformed to His glory.
3. Please **continue to pray for Auntie Alice**, that she will be close to the Lord, and for her to trust the Lord completely during this time of trial. Pray for God's peace and strength for her, and for God's wisdom for Auntie Catherine as she takes care of her sister, as well as for the medical team in attendance.
4. **H1N1 - Pray for the people affected by the H1N1 virus.** Pray for their recovery and the protection of the health workers, caregivers and researchers. Ask the Lord to exterminate the virus and spare us from a world-wide pandemic.

5. **Pray for Sunday School Teachers** – for their preparation and study of the Word, example of faith and holiness, love for their students. *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you"* (Psalm 32:8).

Pray for our Sunday School children's spiritual growth:

- a. that they may learn to put God first and foremost above all else
- b. that they love that which is worth loving
- c. that they may praise that which pleases God most
- d. that they may dislike that which is evil in God's eyes
- e. that they may distinguish between things that differ
- f. that they may search out and do what is well-pleasing to God
- g. that they may be good witnesses in their home, to their neighbours and friends.

6. **Uncle Neville will be travelling to Penang** next week at the invitation of the First AG Church to share at a special meeting on July 17th. He will also visit our congregation to minister there too. Please pray for safe travel and for the Lord to bless the trip. Thank you.

7. **Pray for families** – for oneness, growth and love in Christ. Remember families that are torn and wounded by strife.

CHURCH 29TH ANNIVERSARY

We will be celebrating our 29th Anniversary on August 16th 09 and would like to invite participants to make presentations - song items, short testimonies or skits.

Please approach the pastors before July 31st., if you wish to contribute.
Thank you.

Each day is a new beginning with Him!

PASTORAL PRAYER. Should you or someone you know need prayer, please speak to the pastor or send your email to chggod@churchofgodsg.com.

Last week's Memory Verse: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. - **Psalm 106 :1**
This week: The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. - **Psalm 145:8**