

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Book of Psalms (*Psalms 27:4*)

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – From Eternity to Eternity You are the Deepest Desire of My Heart

I was rejected and unwanted but You say I am precious to You. Through Scripture, God says we are precious and honoured in His sight and He loves us (cf. Isaiah 43:4). God proves this by the way He made us - out of love, in His image (cf. Genesis 1:27) and to be no less than a part of His own family (cf. Ephesians 1:5). He also proves how precious we are when He redeems us not by any means but through the Precious Blood of His very own Son, Jesus Christ. By what He has done, God has proven His love for us beyond all doubts.

I was defeated, down and out but You say I can be more than a conqueror (cf. Romans 8:37). Though I was defeated, wounded by many battles and deemed a failure by human standards, You remind me that You have already won the final and most important battle for me. Through Your death and resurrection, You have turned my defeat and death into victory and eternal life, and transferred me from the kingdom of darkness into Your wondrous uncreated light. The glorious eternal inheritance that You have prepared for me since eternity awaits me, as You urge me to run the good race towards the finishing line. *...in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us (Romans 8:37).*

I was overwhelmed by my sins but You say You will make my sins whiter than snow. *Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool (Isaiah 1:18).* I cannot, by my own good deeds, wash away my sins because they are an offence against the infinite goodness of God. I cannot earn forgiveness but God gives it to me freely as a gift if I ask for it. Through the Precious Blood of Jesus, I am delivered out of the hand of Satan (cf. Revelation 12:11). Jesus not only redeemed me but gives me the grace to live in His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21), breaking all bondages due to sin and giving me strength to start a new life of grace. Thus, through the grace of Jesus Christ, I am justified (cf. Romans 3:24). Clothed in Jesus Christ, I can stand before the throne of God as if I had never sinned!

I was overcome by despair but You say my hope in You is indestructible. *Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).* Our hope is indestructible because it is centred in Christ who is one with God the Father (cf. John 10:30). He is able to do more than we can ask or imagine because His power is absolute (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:27). And while we are on pilgrimage on this earth, Christ lives forever to intercede for us (cf. Hebrews 7:25) before the throne of God. More caring than a tender mother, He will never abandon us (cf. Isaiah 49:15) if we do not separate ourselves from Him by our unrepented sins. God is worthy of all our hope and trust because of His everlasting love for us (cf. Jeremiah 31:3) and His own absolute power which subjects everything to His dominion.

I cannot do it and You say I can. I was discouraged by my weaknesses and failures. Again and again I fell. I said to myself: what is the use? But You showed by the way You lived that perseverance is the way to win the crown of glory. You fell many times on the way to Calvary, yet Your death, though it seemed like a big tragedy, gives rise to eternal life for billions of souls. You showed to St Paul that You can manifest the perfection of Your power through his human weakness. In the salvation history of mankind, You have used weak and humble persons to be Your mighty instruments. Through Your grace and power working in me, I can say together with St Paul: I can do all things through Christ who strengthened me from within (cf. Philippians 4:13).

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, our Heavenly Father made the universe including my heart for the pleasure of His beloved Son, You, Jesus (cf. Colossians 1:16). Thus, He put into my heart its greatest desire (cf. Psalm 84:2): You, the Father's sole complacency. Through my own carelessness I have buried this great desire under a mountain of lesser ones. Weakened by sin and drawn by a multitude of false lights I have spent my life trying to attain joys that are fleeting and superficial. Call me dear Lord to walk in the true path leading me to my true destiny. Awaken that great desire in my poor heart and let me feel that great hunger in my soul for You till finally the day in heaven when I hold You, my greatest joy, my greatest desire, in my possession. Mary, Refuge of Holy Love, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You Jesus. www.twoheart5.hk