



## DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

*The God of Comfort... by Fred*

**READ 1 SAMUEL 1 & 2:1**

- **U**sing the case of Hannah as a case study, we explore how problems or difficulties influences people's life. She was provoked by her adversary to make her fret. She was sorrowful, wept and couldn't eat. She was in grief.
- Loved ones came to console and made her feel good but not solving her problem. How did she address her problem? "*She refused to be at ease in Zion*" - Amos 6:1.
- She recognised the need to take personal responsibility to approach God in prayer. Instead of relaxing with others after eating and drinking, she knew it was time to get her petition across to the throne of grace
- There is no prayer better answered than that which flows out of the depth of the heart! Especially that of an embittered grieving heart groaning in the secret place of the most high. She did not hide her true state from the high priest who mistaken her for a drunkard; thereafter, Eli sealed her prayer request with a heavenly stamp "*Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.*"
- And it came to pass that Hannah conceived.... Amen! What a testimony!! Whatever happens in our life is meant for a purpose that will certainly give glory to God "*For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundingeth by Christ.*" - 2 Corinthians 1:5.
- There is a blessed proportion. The Ruler of Providence bears a pair of scales--in this side He puts His people's trials, and in that He puts their consolations. When the scale of trial is nearly empty, you will always find the scale of consolation in nearly the same condition; and when the scale of trials is full, you will find the scale of consolation just as heavy.
- When the black clouds gather most, the light is the more brightly revealed to us. When the night lowers and the tempest is coming on, the Heavenly Captain is always closest to His crew. It is a blessed thing, that when we are most cast down, then it is that we are most lifted up by the consolations of the Spirit. One reason is, because trials make more room for consolation.
- Great hearts can only be made by great troubles. The spade of trouble digs the reservoir of comfort deeper, and makes more room for consolation.
- God comes into our heart- He finds it full--He begins to break our comforts and to make it empty; then there is more room for grace. The humbler a man lies, the more comfort he will always have, because he will be more fitted to receive it.
- Another reason why we are often most happy in our troubles, is this - then we have the closest dealings with God. When the barn is full, man can live without God: when the purse is bursting with gold, we try to do without so much prayer. But once take our gourds away, and we want our God; once cleanse the idols out of the house, then we are compelled to honour Jehovah. "*Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord.*"

(Continued next page)



## WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 08

- There is no cry so good as that which comes from the bottom of the mountains; no prayer half so hearty as that which comes up from the depths of the soul, through deep trials and afflictions. Hence they bring us to God, and we are happier; for nearness to God is happiness. Come, troubled believer, fret not over your heavy troubles, for they are the heralds of weighty mercies.
- Jabez's problem made him to pray *1 Chro 4:9-10*, Abram prayed - *Gen15:2-5*. We should not rely on our own understanding as it was the case after the battle of Jericho when Israel was defeated in Ai *Joshua 7:1- end*, Eventually Joshua prayed and the Lord granted victory.
- Let us be committed in the place of prayer. Let us be open in the place of prayer. Let us continue to carry one another's burden in the place of prayer
- In hind sight, we often draw consolation from the failures of believers who has gone ahead of us such as "*David's sin with Beersheba and ye the became the man after God's own heart*" or Abram's trickery calling Sarai his sister that led to his wife being taken from him twice! But yet he remained the friend of God" those practices didn't come without pain!Unnecessary pains!! Self inflicted!!! That can easily be overlooked.
- I will argue that David hated himself at the time, and Abram, am sure couldn't wait to have his wife back! Whose fault? Shall a man put his finger in the fire and not be burnt? I summit that we should rather please God as much as He granted us grace.
- Such deliberate mistake could be costly as in the case of Achan. Achan shows us the folly of those that promise themselves secrecy in sin *Joshua 7:16-26*. They that would be kept from sinful actions must mortify and check in themselves sinful desires.
- See the deceitfulness of sin; that which is pleasing in the commission, is bitter in the reflection They lose their own, who grasp at more than their own. His sons and daughters were put to death with him what a costly habit! He wasn't as lucky
- We must pray with holy Job, Lord, show me wherefore thou contendest with me. Let us provoke ourselves to righteousness and devotion in the place of prayer. The time of refreshing shall come again, *Job 23:10* when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold When the Lord turn again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream *Psalm 126:1*. Amen!

### Events /Notices

- ▶ **Next Bible study** will be on Friday the *8th of March @ 8pm*
- ▶ **New deacons** will be set aside for ministry on Sunday the *24th March*
- ▶ **Fire drill** will take place this *Sunday 24th* Following the meeting (approx. *1.15pm*)
- ▶ **Reminder to anyone** interested in attending the church weekend away. (*26th to 28th of April*) To let us know as soon as possible so that accommodation can be planned