**Aflame Sunday Celebration Message – 18 September 2022**

**Minister : Pastor Jimmy Goh**

**Theme : Pursue & Contend Faith for Godliness**

**We are Living in the Last Days Perilous Times of Un-GODLINESS (2 Timothy 3: 1), ‘Lovers of Self’.**

**~ 2 Timothy 3: 2 – 3, 4b (AMPC)**

For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate

 [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive

 (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane.
 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or

 appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate andloose in morals

 andconduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good.

 They will be lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of GOD.

**Jude 1: 17 – 19 (AMP)**

But as for you, beloved, remember the [Prophetic] Words Spoken by the Apostles of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. They used to Say to you, "In the Last Days there will be scoffers, following after their own Ungodly Passions." These are the ones who are [Agitators] causing Divisions - worldly-minded [secular, Unspiritual, Carnal,

merely Sensualunsaved], Devoid of the SPIRIT.

**~ Agitators of Ungodly Passion & Emotion who are unspiritual, as their Carnality cause Division.**

**Warning Counsel to the Churches, by Paul in Acts, is for Current Situation to All in All Churches.**

**Acts 20: 28 – 29 (AMPC)**

Take care and be on Guard for yourselves and the whole flock over which the HOLY SPIRIT has

Appointed you bishops and guardians, to Shepherd (tend and feed and guide) the Church of the LORD or

of GODwhich HE obtained for HIMSelf [buying itand saving it for HIMSelf] with HIS Own Blood.

I know that after I am gone, ferocious wolves will get in among you, not sparing the flock.

**Acts 20: 30 – 32 (AMPC)**

Even from among your own selves men will come to the front who, by saying perverse (Distorted and Corrupt) things, will endeavor to draw away the disciples after them [to their ownparty]. Therefore be always Alert and on your Guard, being mindful that for three years I never stopped night or day seriously to admonish and

advise andexhort you one by one with tears.

And now [brethren], I commit you to GOD [I deposit you in HISCharge, Entrusting you to HIS Protection and Care]. And I Commend you to the Word of HIS Grace [to the Commands andCounsels and Promises of

HIS Unmerited Favor].

It is Able to Build you Up and to Give you [your rightful] inheritance among all GOD's Set-apart Ones

(those consecrated, purified, and transformed of soul).

**2 Timothy 2: 16 (AMPC)**

But avoid all Empty (vain, useless, Idle) talk, for it will lead people into more and more Ungodliness.

**~ HIS Own Sheep, to Learn to Hear HIS VOICE, HIS WORD, Recognise HIS Calling, Voice of Word.**

 **John 10: 4 – 5**

**Galatians 5: 16 (AMPC)**

But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] SPIRIT Responsive to and Controlled and Guided

by the SPIRIT]; then you will certainly Not Gratify the Cravings and Desires of the flesh (of human nature Without GOD).

~ Carnality is Unspiritual Desires to Gratify the Flesh, so Passion & Emotion will be Nature without GOD.

**To Build Up Our Self, Progressively in the TRUTH and in the SPIRIT to Be Responsive to Guidance.**

**Jude 1: 20 – 21 (AMP)**

But you, beloved, BUILD yourselves up on [the FOUNDATION of] your Most HOLY FAITH [Continually Progress, Rise like an edifice higher and higher], Pray in the HOLY SPIRIT, and KEEP yourselves in

the LOVE of GOD, Waiting anxiously andLooking Forward to the Mercy of our LORD JESUS CHRIST

[which will Bring you] to Eternal Life.

**~ Be Progressively Building our Most Holy FAITH, by Not Being Slack so Not Devoid of the SPIRIT.**

**~ By Adding to your FAITH, Supplements are Provided in 2 Peter 1: 3 – 10, Pertaining to Godliness.**

**We All have Received Initially, Same Precious FAITH Seed of Truth from the LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

**2 Peter 1: 1 – 2 (AMPC)**

SIMON PETER, a servant and Apostle (special Messenger) of JESUS CHRIST, to those who have Received (obtained an equal privilege of) like Precious Faith with ourselves in and through the Righteousness of our GOD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST: May Grace (GOD's Favor) and Peace (which is perfect well-being,

all necessary good, all spiritual prosperity, and Freedom from Fears and Agitating passions and moral conflicts) be Multiplied to you in [the Full, Personal, Precise, and Correct] Knowledge of GOD and of JESUS our LORD.

**All Also Been Bestowed by GOD’s Power What is Requisite for GODLINESS & LIFE to BUILD UP.**

**2 Peter 1: 3 – 4 (AMPC)**

For HIS Divine Power has Bestowed upon us all things that [are Requisite and suited] to Life and Godliness, through the [Full, Personal] Knowledge of HIM Who Called us by and*to* HIS Own Glory and Excellence (Virtue). By means of these HE has Bestowed on us HIS Precious and Exceedingly Great Promises, so that

through them you may Escape [by Flight] from the moral Decay (rottenness and Corruption) that is in the world because of Covetousness (Lust and Greed), and become sharers (Partakers) of the Divine Nature.

**BUILDING UP Ourselves on Divine Promises & All Given Requisites is By Own Effort to FAITH.**

**2 Peter 1: 5 – 7 (AMPC)**

For this very reason, Adding your diligence [to the Divine Promises], employ every Effort in

Exercising your Faith to Develop Virtue (Excellence, Resolution, Christian energy), and in

[Exercising] Virtue [Develop] Knowledge (intelligence), and in [Exercising] Knowledge [Develop] Self-control, and in [Exercising] Self-control [Develop] Steadfastness (Patience, Endurance), and in [Exercising] Steadfastness [Develop] Godliness (piety), and in [Exercising] Godliness [Develop] brotherly Affection, and in [Exercising] brotherly Affection [Develop] Christian Love.

**~ Diligent Effort to Exercise to Add to. Our FAITH, by Developing All Qualities for GODLINESS.**

**2 Peter 1: 8 – 10 (AMPC)**

For as these Qualities are yours and increasingly Abound in you, they will Keep [you] from being Idle or Unfruitful unto the [Full Personal] Knowledge of our LORD JESUS CHRIST (the Messiah, the Anointed One). For whoever lacks these Qualities is blind, [Spiritually] Shortsighted, seeing only what is near to him, and has become oblivious [*to the fact*] that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Because of this, brethren, be all the more solicitous andeager to Make Sure (to ratify, to strengthen,

to Make Steadfast) your Calling and Election; for if you do this, you will Never Stumble orFall.

**We Keep Ourselves in the LOVE of GOD, as the LORD is Our KEEPER, WHO KEEP us from Failing.**

**Reference - Psalm 121: 1 – 8 (AMPC)**

**JESUS CHRIST is our KEEPER, Who Preserves us from All forms of Evil & Destruction.**

**Psalm 40: 11**

Do not Withhold YOUR tender Mercies from me, O LORD;

Let YOUR Lovingkindness and YOUR TRUTH Continually Preserve me.

**Sustaining GODLINESS by Contending for our FAITH in CHRIST In an Ungodly World Environment.**

**Jude 1: 3 – 5 (AMP)**

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I was compelled to

write to you [urgently] Appealing that you fight strenuously for [the Defence of] the Faith which was once for all handed down to the saints [the Faith that is the sum of Christian Belief that was given verbally to believers].

For certain people have Crept In unnoticed [just as if they were sneaking in by a side door]. They are

Ungodly persons whose condemnation was predicted long ago, for they distort the Grace of our GOD into decadence andimmoral freedom [viewing it as an opportunity to do whatever they want], and Deny and Disown our only Master and LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

Now I want to Remind you, although you are fully informed once for all, that the LORD, after saving a people

out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe [who Refused to Trust and Obey and Rely on HIM].

**Faith in GOD of ALL Believers are to be Tested by Going thru Various Trials, as JESUS was Tested.**

**James 1: 2 – 3 (AMP)**

Consider it nothing but Joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you Fall into various Trials.

Be assured that the Testing of your FAITH [through Experience] produces Endurance [leading to

Spiritual Maturity, and Inner Peace].

**James 1: 4 – 5 (AMP)**

And let Endurance have its Perfect Result and do a thorough work, so that you may be Perfect and Completely Developed [in your Faith], lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is To Ask of [our Benevolent] GOD, Who Gives to everyone Generously and

without rebuke or blame, and it will Be Given to him.

**James 1: 6 – 8 (AMP)**

But he must ask [for Wisdom] in FAITH, Without Doubting [GOD’s Willingness to help], for the one who Doubts is like a billowing surge of the sea that is blown about and tossed by the wind.

For such a person Ought Not to think or Expect that he will receive anything [at all] from the LORD, being

A Double-minded man, unstable and restless in all his ways [in everything he thinks, feels, or decides].

**How & Do we Walk, Stand & Sit with in this Life to Associate & Fellowship as in Psalms 1: 1 – 3.**

**1 Timothy 6: 16 – 21 (AMP)**

HE alone possesses immortality [absolute exemption from death] and Lives in Unapproachable LIGHT,

Whom no man has ever seen or can see. To HIM be Honor and Eternal Power andDominion! Amen.

As for the rich in this present world, Instruct them not to be Conceited and Arrogant, nor to set their Hope on

the uncertainty of riches, but on GOD, Who Richly andCeaselessly Provides us with everything for our enjoyment.  Instruct themto Do Good, to be Rich in Good Works, to be Generous, Willing to share [with others]. In this way Storing Up for themselves the EnduringRiches of a Good Foundation for the future, so that

they may take hold of that which is Truly Life. O Timothy, Guard andKeep Safe the Deposit [of GODly Truth] Entrusted to you, Turn Away from worldly and godless chatter [with its profane, empty words], and

the contradictions of what is Falsely called "knowledge"-- which some have professed and by doing so

have erred (missed the mark) andstrayed from the Faith. Grace be with you.

**Contending for our FAITH is to Fight Strenuously for our FAITH of Righteousness in CHRIST.**

**1 Timothy 6: 11 – 12 (AMP)**

But as for you, O man of GOD, Flee from these things; Aim at andPursue Righteousness

[True Goodness, moral Conformity to the Character of GOD], GODLINESS [the Fear of GOD], Faith,

Love, Steadfastness, and Gentleness. Fight the Good Fight of the FAITH [in the conflict with evil];

take hold of the Eternal Life to which you were Called, and [for which] you made the Good Confession

[of FAITH] in the Presence of many witnesses.

**Believers have to Die to Self (Flesh, Carnality) so as to Live in Endurance, Sustaining GODLINESS.**

**2 Timothy 2: 11 – 13 (AMP)**

This is a Faithful and Trustworthy saying: If we died with HIM, we will also Live with HIM;

If we Endure, we will also Reign with HIM; If we deny HIM, He will also Deny us; If we are faithless,

HE Remains FAITHFUL [true to HIS WORD and HIS Righteous Character], for HE cannot Deny HIMSELF.

**Endure to Deny Our Self (Will, Carnality), Flee but Pursue GOD’s Righteousness with Aim & Focus.**

**2 Timothy 2: 22 (AMPC)**

Shun youthful lusts and Flee from them, and Aim at and Pursue Righteousness (all that is Virtuous and Good, Right Living, Conformity to the Will of GOD in thought, Word, and Deed); [and Aim at and Pursue] FAITH, LOVE, [and] Peace (harmony and concord with others) in Fellowship with all [Christians], who Call upon the LORD

out of a Pure Heart.

**Endurance to Fight the Good Fight of FAITH thru All Situation, by Doing Works of FAITH to FINISH.**

**2 Timothy 4: 5 – 8 (AMP)**

But as for you, be clear-headed in every situation [Stay Calm and Cool and Steady], Endure every Hardship [without flinching], do the work of an evangelist, fulfill [the duties of] your ministry.

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure [from this world] is at hand and I will soon go Free. I have Fought the Good andWorthy and Noble Fight, I have Finished the Race,

I have Kept the FAITH [firmly Guarding the Gospel against error]. In the future there is Reserved for me

the [Victor's] Crown of Righteousness [for being Right with GOD and Doing Right], which the LORD,

the Righteous Judge, will Award to me on that [Great] Day - and not to me only, but also to

All those who have Loved and longed for and Welcomed HIS Appearing.

**JESUS our LORD Endure to FINISH HIS RACE on the CROSS**

**~ to Be the AUTHOR and FINISHER of our FAITH.**

**Hebrews 12: 1 – 2 (AMPC)**

Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony

to the Truth], let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin

which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us Run with

Patient Endurance and Steady and Active Persistence the Appointed Course of the Race

that is Set before us,

Looking Away [from all that will distract] to JESUS, Who is the Leader and the SOURCE of our

FAITH [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its FINISHER [bringing it to maturity

and perfection]. HE, for the Joy [of obtaining the prize] that was Set before HIM, Endured the Cross, Despising and Ignoring the shame, and is now Seated at the Right Hand of the Throne of GOD.

**All Believers are to Patiently Endure with Steady & Active Persistence**

**~ to FINISH to SET RACE of FAITH**

**~ So to Achieve the Reserved Victor’s Crown of GOD’s RIGHTEOUSNESS**