

FAMILY AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

(God's Treasured Possession)

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You may not be aware. You may not have noticed. Time, indeed, flies so quickly. The "ber months" are fast approaching. Let us be reminded that September is FAMILY MONTH in our dear GCF South Metro Church. It has been two years in a row already that we have been in this pandemic brought about by the Covid-19 virus. Many have recovered from this unseen enemy, yet, the list of those being infected are still increasing daily. Together with this, the number of people being vaccinated are also increasing. As of this writing, roughly 12.6 million of the total number of the entire population have been vaccinated (*Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1236727/philippines-coronavirus-covid19-vaccine-rollout/>*). The question one might ask is whether or not we are really protected. We are protected by the grace of God. The Lord's mercy endures forever. His steadfast love never ceases (Lam 3:22-23).

Family as God Dearly Loved

God loves the family so much. It is expressed by delivering His people Israel from the slavery in Egypt. As written in Exodus 19:3-6, the LORD said to His people, "how I bore them on eagles' wings; you are my treasured possession among all peoples; and a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." As we are today, God sent His only begotten Son to us so He could redeem us from the sure penalty of death (Rom. 6:23) that we may be included in God's dearly loved family, affirmed by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 3:14-15.

Family Within Challenging Community

In a recent study, families are on the verge of attacks by the enemy (1Pet 5:8). Parents and children experience many struggles with anxiety, fear, doubt and worries due to the uncertainty of the future. Some are in a state of denial for fear of rejection or condemnation. Symptoms of depression are difficult to detect until the problems become worse. On September 4, 2021, the Counseling Ministry and Couples Who Care Ministry collaborated to hold a Webinar entitled: Detect Depression in the Family. We have invited a couple who will facilitate the event in the person of Atty. Dong and Malu Tumuran. They are experts in the field of ministering to families who experience this kind of struggle. Joy in the families can still be recovered through and by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is our great Healer. He is our Peace. He answers our prayers. Testimonies of His greatness and goodness are also real. In celebration of Family Month, the Lord's greatness, grace and goodness will be highlighted in our online worship services - testimonies of God's faithfulness, miracle upon miracle, healing upon healing and protection of God's people.

Family in the New Normal

Our life has already changed. Our routines have shifted tremendously. We are now living in a new normal. A change of mindset is necessary for us to adapt to present realities in

life. The lowering of our expectation level is also important to do. We need to rather raise our appreciation level amidst negative circumstances happening around us. We need to embrace struggles, difficulties and sufferings as part of our Christian calling (1Pet 4:12-13, 19). Seize every opportunity that the Lord will open up for us to minister to others. In our family, relatives, friends, neighbors and other people, the Lord Jesus Christ mandated us to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:18-20). As we cultivate our life on the things God would want us to accomplish for Him, may our hearts always be in a posture of dependence on Him. May the Lord give us discernment of His will. May He give us wisdom and strength to do and fulfill His mission, all for His honor and glory alone. May the Lord bless our FAMILY! As Paul had admonished the Galatian believers, I do likewise, "9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10)." ✦

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