

FEAR NOT!

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"But now, this is what the LORD says - "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name, you are mine." ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

Ownership is crucial in understanding the circumstances of life we find ourselves in as we face the inevitable dangerous and sometimes perilous situations that await us, as believers and followers of Jesus Christ. Whose we are (not who we are) gives us the security we need to face the Goliaths that come our way.

Indeed, whose we are determines the trajectory of our well-being amidst our challenges in life. I recently learned about a friend (a former university classmate) who has had to come to grips with the sad reality of the possibility of losing her daughter, who needed to be intubated in a hospital in

Cagayan de Oro. But what makes it more poignant for this nearly 70-year-old mother is her own battle with cancer that she contends with, having to go through chemotherapy and the attendant difficulty and discomfort it gives her as she battles the big C.

A few months ago, after 30+ years since our university days, she regaled us with her life story as she shared her blessing of being awarded for her outstanding service in government as a senior official of GSIS in her adopted city of CDO. During our lunch get together, she also informed us about the sad circumstances surrounding her husband's passing a few years back as he suffered a massive and devastating stroke as they were on a train traveling to Venice to catch their flight back to Manila after a brief visit there. It is easy to conclude that, in spite of the major challenges in life she has been through, she stands tall only by the all-sufficient grace and tender mercies that the Lord gives her.

In what would have been a fearful moment in her life as

she deals with her daughter's desperate health condition, the peace of the Lord that surpasses all understanding guards her heart and gives her assurance that our mighty and faithful God is with her, and that gives her hope to face this formidable battle.

Is there anything else that could give you hope as you face your own battles in life other than the Lord and His promises? Surely, with a deep conviction in my heart, I dare proclaim that nothing or no one can deliver us from our fears, nor our battles than Jesus Christ, who overcomes! He alone gives us strength when we are weak, when we have fear in our hearts, and when we face uncertainty in life.

Truly, great and mighty is He whose we are! May that give us the assurance we need that in our lives and in the difficult situations we face, we need not worry nor tarry. Fear not! God is with us! He will deliver us!✠