

Finding God

When the pandemic has just started, I experienced having anxiety and something in my heart triggered a hole and gave way to a lot of worries and fears to come in as the days and months passed by and things became uncertain. All the plans that I had foreseen doing for that year are not just going to happen anymore as the border restrictions and travel bans were in placed everywhere.

It was during the hustle and bustle time of my life when I receive an Email notification for an upcoming five days silent retreat. I signed up right away as I felt a strong desire to spend time searching God and to find answers with all the questions I had in mind. I prayed hard enough for this retreat to push through as the previous one was cancelled.

During the retreat and to my great surprise, the Spiritual Counsellor spoke to me and uttered, "Jesus saw that there was a sadness in your heart." And that very moment, I felt God's message touched my heart and it felt like I was embraced back in his arms. It made me burst into tears while I was reading a verse in front of me as I opened the bible, then it says in **Jeremiah 33:3**, "Call to me and I will answer you, I will tell you wonderful and marvelous things you know nothing about."

For those five days stay in the retreat, we listened to spiritual talks, attended daily masses, prayed the rosary before the sunrise at the grotto and having praise and worship sessions. I found a solace with all that I am going through. I have learnt to accept that times were uncertain and the more that I need to hold on firmly to my faith.

I was totally a different person coming out of the retreat and finally discovering the unknown in my heart that had caused sadness in me are the plans that were not able to prosper and I am in awe how good our God is for bringing me back closer to him through these little struggles that I had experienced and for making me realized that he has a big plan for me and believing in his promise of a future with hope.

He calls us every single moment of our life and invites us to feel His most precious love with every step of our way. We must spend time

in prayer and meditate on his word, put into action what we have read and be obedient in following his commandments. We are in a battlefield each day and we need his grace in order for us to surpass all these trials and tribulations that comes along. God said in **Sirach 2:6**, "Trust the Lord and he will help you. Walk straight in his ways, and put your hope in him".

My heart will always sing praises to God for what He has done for me! I am back in serving as one of Stewards at the Banquet in the Church of St. Anthony on every Sundays, I attend online mass every day without fail, daily rosary time before I go to work and most importantly, waking up at dawn to spend an hour reading the bible and meditating on his word to help me to understand what God wants of me to accomplish on that day and to imitate Jesus' examples on how to be obedient to the Father. He guides me in discovering the ways to show love with the people I meet. And these are the things that help me to reconnect with God and I will be forever grateful that He led me to His path again; I was once lost but now I am found. I may fail God a hundred times but he will be there for me more than thousand times.

At first it was really hard to wake up very early in the morning and it's proven that nothing comes easy in the beginning. I deeply remembered when I heard from a priest during the retreat that a habit will usually form after 21 days of doing it. Looking back on the retreat last year and up to date, all hard work has been paid off for nothing is impossible to God, it is just a matter of my Yes or No, and anything else in between does not belong to him.

Searching God is within our reach and His kingdom is truly close at hand. We just have to be in that quiet moment of our life and reflect on his eternal love and mercy for us. It gives glory to God if we put him sincerely at the core of our heart in everything that we do be it in our workplace or at our service in church. He is always ready to reach our hands and gives us a warm embrace to be back home.

To God be the Glory!