

# REFLECTION

BLD NEWARK COVENANT COMMUNITY

## NO FEAR IN LOVE

With God as my sure defense, there's nothing I should fear. In times of trouble, He was always there to rescue me. In times of trial, He was with me every step of the way. In times of persecution, He protected me from my foes. Each time I needed His love and mercy, not a moment did I not feel it. Numerous times I have uttered these words, "*God, You are my Rock, my Stronghold, my Redeemer.*"

Yet, despite my close encounter of God's power in my life, I still find it difficult to always and completely trust in Him. Occasionally, I asked myself, why am I so afraid to let go and take risks? If "*...God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.*" (2 Timothy 1:7), then why do I easily give in to my fears - fear of losing my job, my loved ones, my friendship, and my cherished material possessions; and fear of the future - what will become of me and my loved ones? Why do these fears overshadow my knowledge of God's infinite goodness and mercy?

It makes me wonder, do I really love Jesus? If I do and really believe in His perfect love, 'letting go' or 'taking risk' should not be a difficult thing to do. 1 John 4:18 says, "*There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love.*" Perhaps my love for Jesus is still superficial, and this could be the reason why I worry too much and get anxious easily. Reflecting on this verse deeply made me realize that the only way I can live freely and peacefully is to remain in God's love, for love bears *all things*, believes *all things*, hopes *all things*, and *endures all things* (1 Cor 13:7).

As I continue my earthly journey, I pray that the Lord will give me the grace to grow in love for Him and abide in His love every moment of my life, so I will no longer give in to my countless fears. Instead, I will firmly hold onto His promise in Isaiah 41:10, "*Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice.*"

As I cling to this beautiful promise, I can be like the psalmist who said with confidence "*Even when I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm for you are at my side...only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life.*" (Ps 23:4 & 6)