Lesson Eight – Hopeful Hearts

*“"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,” Therefore I hope in Him! The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.”” Lamentations 3:24-26*

Hope is such a sustaining thing for the Christian. Without it, we walk through life, struggling on a path that seems to lead only to disappointment and despair. With hope, we walk through life happy and rejoicing, looking to the future and our hope of a glorious resurrection. What a happy ending awaits us—death swallowed up in victory and life everlasting with God our Father and His son Jesus Christ!

1. **What is hope?**

Hope is favorable and confident expectation. Hope describes the happy expectation of good. (Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words).

* A wish or desire accompanied by confident expectation of its fulfillment.
* The happy anticipation of good!
* Believing that a positive outcome is possible even when there is some evidence to the contrary.
* Desire and expectation rolled into one.

1. **The certainty of hope.**
2. Hope is based on promises made by God before time began. Titus 1:1-2
   * Man’s hope of eternal life is assured because it is impossible for God to lie. (Hebrews 6:13-18, Titus 1:2)
   * God makes good on His word—"What He has spoken He will do.” Numbers 23:19
   * The giver of all good things doesn’t change. James 1:17
   * Hold fast your confession, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23
3. **Hope believes and sees beyond the circumstances of life.**
4. Discouragements are common to God’s people.

* While in Egypt; a time of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage. Exodus 6:4-9
* Jeremiah amid the ruins of Jerusalem. Lamentations Chapter 3
* Job— “…My days…come to an end without hope.” Job 7:1-6
* Christians in every age who have held on to the promises of God.

1. Believing and holding onto our hope helps us get through difficult days.

* The sons of Korah— “Hope in God! Psalm 42
* Paul— “I believe God, that it will be just as it was told me.” Acts 27:20-25
* Heroes of faith. Hebrews chapter 11
* “…being fully convinced that He is able to perform what he has promised.” Rom 4:21

**Question: Why or how is it possible for Christians to have a strong hope, even in the darkest times when it seems there is no good reason to have hope?**

1. **Hope is the anchor of the soul.**

* Our hope is both sure and steadfast. Hebrews 6:19
* Our hope enters the Presence behind the veil. Hebrews 6:19-20

1. **Our hope is a living hope.**

* God’s abundant mercy has begotten us to a living hope. 1 Peter 1:3-9
* Our hope will not disappoint! Romans 5:1-5

1. **Our hope is based on the resurrection.**

* We have a living hope and a living Savior. 1 Peter 1:20-21, Ephesians 1:20

***The iron boat anchor is cast below, into the dark sea.***

***The anchor of Hope is cast upward into the deep of heaven!***

* But now Christ is risen from the dead! I Corinthians 15:12-20

1. **Hope rejoices.**

* We rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:2
* “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27