

Luke 10:39 "She had a sister named Marv, which also sat at Jesus feet and heard His word."

NEWSLETTER: "MOMENTS WITH MARY"

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"A LIVELY HOPE!"

1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Hope! Almost every day you can hear people use this word, hope! Many times is an expression of wanting something in some way, but no confidence they will obtain it! "Will you get a new job this year?" "I hope so!" "Will your children arrive home safely?" "I hope so!" and on and on, they say it, but seems to me there is an element of doubt and no real assurance in the saying of it.

People check the Stock Market and other areas that appear to have an "iffy" future! Who or what can we really trust in these days? When you say you have hope, just what are the grounds or basis for that hope? It pays to examine the foundation of any promise of hope. If that foundation is shaky, be careful!

When we think of the hope the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father has promised to us, there is knowledge available to us that gives us the assurance He will follow through on whatever He has declared. Our Scripture verse tells us that our hope is based on the resurrection of Christ Jesus from the dead! He has said that His resurrection and the Spirit of God living in us is the basis of our lively or living hope! His resurrection is evidence that the promise Jesus gave the disciples was true! "I will rise again!"

True hope is always based in and on God and His Character. His actions as recorded in the Bible identify specific actions and attributes of God that give us a reason for our hope. Lamentations is an Old Testament Book written by the prophet Jeremiah that records the sorrows of Israel's failures to honor God. Ironically, it also recorded the hope for God's people, based on His mercy and goodness!

Lam.3:21-25 "This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. The Lord's loving kindness indeed shall never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion' says my soul, 'Therefore I have hope in Him.' The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him."

Psalms 130:5 "I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope."

What God has said, God will do! The Psalmist says he trusts what God has said. “I hope in His word.” Hope is born again in our heart and spirit as we read God’s word and consider His character. He cannot lie! The Bible Dictionary describes Godly hope this way: Hope is a confidence or expectation of things promised and eager desire of those who seek God and know His grace, which is a virtue or strength found in Believers.

People without true hope can find themselves in a pit of despair. Even most true Believers sometimes feel that way at times, but when they turn and seek the LORD, He will restore their hope and faith. David was a man after God’s heart yet he went through times when he felt utterly hopeless! What did he do?

Let’s look in Psalm 42.

Verse 5 “Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him.”

Verse 8 “The LORD will command His loving kindness in the daytime; and His song will be with me in the night”

{I have spent countless nights calling on His Name, and often His answer was a beloved hymn or song that brought His message of love and hope!}

Verse 11 “Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance,* and my God.” [* facial expression-downcast-saddened]

Even as Believers go through dark valleys, God says to us, “Look up to Me! I am here to help you!” Take a lesson from David, who talked to himself sternly! Do you talk to yourself? You should! It is amazing the strength and courage and hope that will rise up in your soul when you talk to God and begin to encourage yourself with His promises! He our ever present help in all our troubles! Ps. 31:24 “Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD!”

What is the basis or foundation for your hopes? If it is the LORD, it is surely firm and reassuring! Look at Paul’s confidence in Romans 5:1-5 in closing.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our LORD Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Praise God for A LIVELY HOPE!!!

In His Service! Blessings to all! Mary Mayko