
SOLA FIDE

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Hope In The Lord

I love listening to children's praise songs because they remind me of important spiritual truths that I tend to easily forget. For example, one of my favorite songs is called "My Hope Is In The Lord" and this is its lyrics:

*I can't help but feel a little down
A little worried when I look around
That's why my hope is in
My hope is in the Lord
I fix my eyes upon the God who gives,
cause all I need is what I have in Him
That's why my hope is in
My hope is in the Lord
My hope is in the Lord
I belong to Him
He will never let me go
My hope is in the Lord
I can count on him
My hope is in the Lord*

God's providence is His almighty and ever present power whereby, as with His hand. He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come to us not by chance but by His fatherly hand.

- Heidelberg Catechism

In life, Christians encounter lots of struggles and difficulties: financial hardships, relationship issues, health problems, family conflicts, temptations and etc. As we go through these struggles, we get discouraged sometimes, and we cannot help but to feel down and worried. Yet, as we experience these difficulties in our lives, we recognize all the more that our hope is to be on Jesus Christ alone.

The reason why difficulties cause Christians to hope in God all the more is because many of the struggles in life is outside the scope of our own control. For example, when we are facing physical illness, when we go through relationship issues that seems irreconcilable, when we fall into temptations repeatedly, when we go through unbearable grief due to loss of loved ones, there is a sense that we are out matched against our struggles. In fact, the difficulties in life are designed to causes us to look to God for His deliverance because we realize that we cannot help ourselves. So, the struggles and difficulties cause Christians to look to God and hope in Him. Another reason why

What are some practical ways to hope in God in our daily life? These are some of my suggestions:

1. Constantly pray to God rather than trying to solve things through human means.
2. Remind yourself of who God is when you experience life's worries.
3. Remind yourself of God's covenant in Jesus Christ (preach gospel to yourself).
4. Praise God with confidence knowing that God makes all thing good for His people.
5. Study and memorize bible verses to remind yourself of hope we have in Jesus Christ.
6. Be joyful each day by looking forward to God's blessings.

Christians hope in God all the more when going through struggles in life is because we recognize who God is. For example, God is almighty (Genesis 1:1), God sustains all things (Colossians 1:17), God cares for us (Matthew 10:29-31) and more. Because of these attributes of God, we recognize that God is more than willing and able to deliver His people from the sufferings and difficulties of life. In fact, this is the promise given to us, "trust in the lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6); "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known" (Jeremiah 33:3). So Christians, in the midst of our hardships and difficulties, we are called to look to God and hope in Him!

Then the question is how are we to hope in God? How can a person hope in God all the more when going through the difficulties? To hope in God in challenging situations, there are some steps for us to remember. First, you have to belong to God, and belonging to God is only through Jesus Christ. The bible says that there is no name in which salvation is given other than in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). Basically, Jesus Christ is the only mediator for us to belong to God. It's through His death and resurrection, we were invited to belong to God. Without having relationship with Jesus Christ, we cannot have trust nor hope in God because hope and trust are built on relationship. So it is only through Jesus Christ, we will have hope in God.

Secondly, we have to live by the Spirit. If we know Jesus Christ, we have to also walk in Him. Christian life does not end with placing our faith in Jesus Christ; it is merely the first step! This is the reason why bible repeatedly describes Christian life as a "race". Hebrews 12 states that we are to run this "race" set before us. So Christians cannot be lazy and unaware to live out the new life in Christ in carnality! Yes, we might often fall short and stumble. But there is a difference between falling short and living in fleshly desires! God's people are called to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5) rather than living in sin. And only by walking in the Spirit, can a Christian person grow more in hoping in God because such life redirects heart and mind to be focused on God. So brothers and sisters, let us walk by the Spirit!

In spite of struggles and difficulties, we are called to hope in the Lord because God is our refuge and strength (Psalms 46:1). So let us remember to look to Christ and and walk in the Spirit!!

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