

Hope

If we are all sinners and we are all therefore bound to suffer then what gives us Hope. Is it truly possible to have meaningful hope in this life? The answer is Yes. For the Lord himself has made that promise to us.

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

To live with Hope and to be forever driven by hope is a truly Christian characteristic. One need not be ashamed of it nor live in fear. The Holy Spirit lives within us the day we gave our lives to Jesus and entered his Kingdom wilfully. So Hope is a gift to rejoice in rather than be ashamed of.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:5

“And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you. Psalm 39:7

A true Christian needs to be filled with the confidence that the Lord has given to us in many ways- He Made us pure by taking away our sins. He made us in his own image. He filled us with the Holy Spirit. He taught us to live a life of goodness. With all of this our lives can only but be filled with Hope always. And in that hope we should find everlasting peace. Like many of the other mysteries Hope is something we can't see, but yet is real.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:24-25

It is Hope that gives us a future. It is in Hope we know there is salvation. It is often hard to believe in Hope. But is it not as I said before in the opening page that the Bible is not about If's and But's- It is about the absolute truth. Some may be a mystery to us in this life, but that does not make it unreal. Hope is a mystery that we will only fully realise in Heaven. True wisdom is in realising it.

Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off. Proverbs 24:14

So that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:7

But Why does God take so much effort in keeping the hope alive in us. In how many places has he promised us his help and our salvation- Our Hope. The Bible talks so much on Hope. Why? Because Hope is our armour against Satan. It is the true strength that we have, to fight his temptations. Hope makes us fearless. Without that Hope we will fall easy prey to the evil and be led astray. The Bible compares Hope to a “helmet” protecting us and leading us to salvation.

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 1 Thessalonians 5:8

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word. Psalm 119:114

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23

Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word. Psalm 119:74

Hope stems from the belief and faith we have in the Lord. For without Belief there is no Hope. It is paramount that our belief is strong and nourishes the Hope in us. And when we do that truly nothing is impossible.

And Jesus said to him, “‘If you can’! All things are possible for one who believes.” Mark 9:23

In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began. Titus 1:2

Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, 2 Corinthians 3:12

So that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, Hebrews 6:18-19

True concept of Hope goes beyond this Life. Natural death is not the end of life for Christians; it is the last step before receiving a glorified, resurrected body like that of the risen Christ. That "spiritual" body will be as different from our current bodies as a star is from a fish. In that moment, for all who have believed in Christ, living and dead, death will be defeated for good.

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. 1 Corinthians 15:19

The key message however is to truly surrender to Him and realise that in God alone is there Hope. Hope is not about the physical world or the material things in our life being fulfilled. Hope is about eternal life and glory in God. It is far beyond all things we imagine- Hope is the path to Salvation.

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13

And you will feel secure, because there is hope; you will look around and take your rest in security. Job 11:18

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. Psalm 42:11

And what is that true reward or outcome of Hope in this life and beyond. Nothing could be better said about that than Psalm 23- The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ...

Indeed it is Hope that makes the cup overflow.....