

By Adrian Rogers

# LIVING YOUR LIFE WITH HOPE

**M**ost of us need a checkup from the neck up. We need to get our thinking straight. You may feel as down and defeated today as the people of God in the book of Lamentations. Because of their sin, they'd been carried away captive to Babylon. Far from home, they longed for the temple and presence of God. You can't find a more heartbroken people. They felt God's hand against them, hedged in with no hope for escape. Bitterness besieged them. Someone once said, "Hopelessness is the saddest word in the human language."

Yet there was reason to turn their hearts to God and put their hope in Him. The prophet Jeremiah enters into their despair and the severity of their devastation. Nevertheless, he says, "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; *therefore will I hope in Him*" (Lamentations 3:22-24). Hope is there.

You may feel you have no hope, but I've learned this as I've gone through life: hope returns when we turn our eyes upon Jesus. The apostle Paul wrote, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and *rejoice in hope of the glory of God*" (Romans 5:2). In distress and devastation, we can be filled with bitterness and fear, or we can begin to rejoice in the presence of the Lord.

Despite the pressing pain in their hearts and the problems in their lives, the Israelites

in captivity were told to remember that God was at hand. He was near. *He is always near.* Remembering God was their help and hope, they chose the proper perspective.

Now, the proper perspective wasn't rejoicing over their problems but rejoicing in God's nearness. However sick you may be, whatever agony you're in, or how discouraged you are, the fact is, nothing can separate you "from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39). There is Jesus, and He is always there.

Jeremiah continues, "The LORD is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD" (v. 25-26).

In the Bible, the word *hope* doesn't mean *maybe*. We might say, "Oh, I hope such-and-such will happen," yet we're still uncertain. But in the Bible *hope* means certainty—rock-ribbed assurance based on the Word of God—a certainty combined with anticipation:

"There's something I know is going to happen based on the Word of God, and I can hardly wait for it to happen."

Peter at Pentecost quoted

the psalmist David, "I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for He is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope" (Acts 2:25-26, quoting Psalm 16:8-9). Hope is simply faith in the future tense.

Every day is a gift from God. His compassions are new every morning. God "daily loadeth us with benefits" (Psalm 68:19). God has a load of brand new blessings for you today. We are apt to forget His blessings, even though they come daily. He has been faithful to you, with a great faithfulness.

One of my favorite verses is 1 Timothy 6:15. "Which in His [Jesus'] times He shall shew who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords." I can hardly wait for that time.

This world is not all there is. Currently we are pilgrims and strangers. But one day the bride of Christ will be with the bridegroom. Satan, the criminal, will be in prison, and the King will be on His throne. Our King is on His way! Jesus is coming to rule and reign.

"Therefore, I have hope," His glorious appearing. With our eyes we will see Him. Soon and very soon we're going to see the King.

*This article is compiled from the Adrian Rogers Legacy Bible and messages from Dr. Rogers.*

