

WELL OF HOPE

ROMANS 15:13



Well of Hope

- “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Precious Lord, take my hand

Lead me on, let me stand

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn

Through the storm, through the night

Lead me on to the light

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Well of Hope

- Sometimes life can suddenly get very dark
- Just imagine in your mind's eye the first night Adam and Eve spent outside the Garden
 - **Genesis 3:23-24 NIV**, 23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.
 - Banished - expel, deport, drive out, divorce
 - In the Bible it means to be away from one's home (i.e. city, state or country) while either being explicitly refused permission to return and/or being threatened by prison or death upon return

Well of Hope

- Sometimes life can suddenly get really dark
- Just imagine in your mind's eye the first night Adam and Eve spent outside the Garden
 - Torn relationship with their Creator and Provider
 - Safety and security of the Garden gone
 - The ground now fighting them for production
 - Wearing the skin of the first animal sacrificed because of their sin on their bodies
 - The way back blocked by a heavenly being with a flaming flashing **“You Shall Not Pass”** sword

Well of Hope

- Sometimes life can suddenly get very dark
 - We find in Scripture the darkness of Elijah's depression
 - David's adultery with Uriah the Hittite's wife
 - Peter's denial knowing Jesus
 - All the Disciples in the upper room after the crucifixion
- Life's questions suddenly change in the darkness
 - How can I go on or hold on?
 - What do I do now?
 - Why?
 - Where can I find enough hope and peace just to wake up tomorrow?

Well of Hope

- Sometimes life can suddenly get very dark
 - **2nd Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV**, “3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles”
 - Comfort - "to call alongside of," i.e. to summon for assistance, cheer and encourage
 - **John 14:26 NIV**, “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you”
 - Advocate – Paraclete, Comforter, Guide
 - So, what can the Holy Spirit bring into my life when the days get really dark?

Scripture

- **Romans 15:13 NIV**, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- We get hung up on the word “May” in our culture
 - To us it is a wishy-washy word
 - Maybe yes, maybe no, we will just have to wait and see
 - Not a word we can place a lot of trust in
- In Scripture it means a “confident expectation”
 - But there is a condition in our verse this morning?
 - “As you trust in Him” or “According to or in relationship to the depth of your trust in Him”

Notice first, God doesn't just give hope, He is our hope

- We want God to change our circumstances thus producing faithless and baseless hope in our lives
 - This type of hope is built only upon sight
 - What I see happening gives me the sensation of hope
 - This type of hope rests entirely on our circumstances that can change daily
- We want Him to just dump hope into our emotions producing only the feeling of hope
 - We might come to church, sing confidently the worship songs, give hearty amens to one of my fabulous points because it sounds pleasing
 - When hope is an emotion, it leaks out of our spirits just as quickly as it came, filling us with emptiness

Notice first, God doesn't just give hope, He is our hope

- Paul is telling us that true hope is found in, based on, rests upon God alone
 - It is not baseless, but rests upon who God is
 - True hope has a foundation it rests upon that is sure, true, everlasting
- We go looking for hope in all the wrong places
 - The predominate one being – Self Reliance
- True hope is a deep well-spring of life found only in God alone that can never be exhausted, not matter your circumstances of life

Notice first, God doesn't just give hope, He is our hope

- He is called the “God of Hope” in Scripture – why?
 - Only God is all-knowing, He understands and never guesses
 - Your darkness is not dark to God
 - **Daniel 2:22 NIV**, He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.

Notice first, God doesn't just give hope, He is our hope

- He is called the “God of Hope” in Scripture
 - Only God is all-knowing, He understands and never guesses
 - Only God is all-powerful, your darkness can never overcome Him
 - **Jeremiah 32:17 ESV**, “Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.”
 - **Psalms 147:5 ESV**, “Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.”
 - **Luke 1:37 ESV**, “For nothing will be impossible with God.”
 - God is greater than your darkness

Notice first, God doesn't just give hope, He is our hope

- He is called the “God of Hope” in Scripture
 - Only God is all-knowing, He understands and never guesses
 - Only God is all-powerful, your darkness can never overcome Him
 - Only God is all-present thus we can never be out of His care and compassion
- **Psalm 139:7-12 NIV**, 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Notice first, God doesn't just give hope, He is our hope

- Here is the question this morning, “Will you trust God fully with your darkness because of who He is, not necessarily for what you want Him to do?”
 - **Psalm 25:1, 4-5 NIV**, In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. 4 Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. 5 Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Paul tells us hope abounds where God's joy and peace are present

- **Romans 15:13 NIV**, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- Allow God's joy and peace to fill you which will bring hope into your darkness
 - This is a special kind of joy and peace
 - Joy based upon our relationship with God through Christ Jesus
 - We know who Jesus is
 - We know who we are in Christ Jesus
 - We know the truth and have been set free
 - We know the promises of God's Word

Paul tells us hope abounds where God's joy and peace are present

- True Joy and Peace is rests upon our trust in God's character, promises, and provisions
 - The deeper we know and grasp God, the deeper and more settled our hope becomes
 - In other words, joy and peace are prerequisites of hope
 - **John 14:27 NIV**, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
 - **Nehemiah 8:10 NIV**, "The joy of the Lord is your strength."
 - Jesus' surety is our overflowing well of hope

Paul then tells us that none of this is possible without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives

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- We settle at times for an emotional hope, a reprieve from the pressures of life when God desires to give you overflowing hope
 - Hope not just on Sunday
 - Hope in the now but also for all your tomorrows
 - Hope regardless of whatever circumstance may come into your life because we know there is a power within us that nothing can overcome

Paul then tells us that none of this is possible without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives

- We settle at times for an emotional hope, a reprieve from the pressures of life when God desires to give you overflowing hope
 - Hope that allows you to say, “This is how I feel. When I look out, I only see darkness emptiness but that is only an illusion. God has promised to be in my darkness and even though I cannot see or feel Him. I will choose to trust Him with this darkness. Why? Because my God has promised me eternal life and that life starts in the here and now of this darkness. My God has promised that nothing can separate me from His love. I choose joy and peace today.”

Paul then tells us that none of this is possible without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives

- We settle at times for an emotional hope, a reprieve from the pressures of life when God desires to give you overflowing hope
 - My God knows this darkness I am in
 - My God is present in this darkness I am in
 - My God has all power over this darkness I am in
 - My God has a plan and purpose for me in this darkness I am in
- The song of my heart will be the same as Paul's
 - **Philippians 4:13 ESV**, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."
 - This is what gives me hope in the darkness

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