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Here's Hope  
by Rev. Jerry Rea

### An Empty Well?

Sometimes you let down your bucket, and it comes up empty. The well runs dry. It's common enough in the natural world and even more so in the spiritual world. I've heard it said often that hope springs eternal in the human heart. That's a good thought, but not necessarily the way "hearts" go. Sometimes the stresses and strains of real life suck us dry. Sometimes we let our well down into holes they ought not to go. Sometimes we can't even find the well. Have you ever gotten lost, even though you call yourself on the "straight and narrow?" The wilderness looms, and there is no well in sight. My heart does not always spring hope. My mind does not always understand. My spiritual eyes get dim or cloudy. My thirst for God comes and goes. Am I the only one? I didn't think so. Here's something to remember.

Very often we try to find an anchor *inside* the boat. Any fisherman knows that an anchor only helps when it is tied *outside* the boat. You need to be tied to find your hope outside, not always inside. Leaning on your own resources can be dangerous. Our resources come and go; His do not. God is steady; we are wobbly. God is strong; we are weak. God is sure; we (on the other hand) are hit and miss. Latch onto Him, not some other source.

What *are* you sources of hope? Do you hope in the "goodness of man?" That's laughable. Hitler and the Nazis taught us that mankind can be very, very bad. Do you hope in science? Which particular brand of science? Technology is run by people, and people are notoriously transient. The answers of science change every day. So they should, because we are constantly discovering something that "changes everything." Have you noticed that doctors don't agree? The virus has taught us that...again. Facebook and the news are flooded with "doctors" who tell us very different views. Do you hope in education? Did you know that many of our most educated persons are running this country in Washington? Need I say more? Some of our more prestigious universities do and say things that run completely counter to common sense. Science, education, and the "good heart" of mankind are all empty wells. We can't trust them to supply what our hearts need.

Then, there's Jesus. It is not by mistake or happenstance that He calls Himself the "water of life." Just as needful as water to the body, so the water of Jesus is needed in your life. No matter where you go on the face of this earth, all mankind need water to live. Jesus is the same. No spirit can live without the water of life. Water is essential for plant life. Jesus is essential for spiritual life. I don't mean the wisdom of Jesus. His concepts are awesome and His principles are trustworthy, but I'm referring to something else. Jesus is not something you learn with your mind. Jesus is someone you live with. He is not an idea, or a thing; He is a person. That's the reason you can have a full head and an empty heart.

Are you thirsty? I know a well that is never empty!

At the Well,  
Jerry Rea