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Here's Hope
By Rev. Jerry Rea

Help, My Hope is Gone

Hope can drain, like water in a leaky bucket. There is no such thing as a “hope holder” after all. Who ever heard of a “hope bucket”? Hope can evaporate like an ice cube on a hot sidewalk. One minute you’ve got hope, and the next it’s gone. Hope can get used up like gas in your tank. You have nothing left. The problem is that you may have a lot more day than you have hope in your tank. Your life can be so stressful you need something, or you’ll be sucked dry. Pardon my illustrations, but I don’t think it unspiritual to need a refill. There may be better terms to use for this condition, but you get the picture. Those of you who are theologically elite, pardon my pictures; we’re dealing with a hope problem here. I understand that we have all we need in the presence of the Holy Spirit. I believe that His supply, or provision is ever present, but I also know the problem. There are millions who’ve run out of hope, and I know what it’s like to be “dry.”

A few Scripture verses and a principle come to mind. *First*, He will be found - 2 Chronicles 15:2 teaches God will be found. It is possible to “find” Him. We often fool ourselves (or allow the Devil to fool us) into thinking that it’s too difficult, even impossible to find God. Meditate on this verse; He *will* be found. Here’s *another* verse. At Jeremiah 29:13 we are taught to seek Him with all our heart, and the promise is that we will find Him. So, seek the Lord with all your heart, and you will find Him.

Note, it teaches seek Him, not the church. Seek Him, not your favorite devotional book. Seek Him, not a good Christian counselor (as useful as they are). You see, God is the source of our hope. The person is our aim, not knowledge about Him. Seek the person even if it’s hard in all our “religion.” It’s supposed to be a relationship thing.

Now, that raises another question. Where do you find Him? That, I think, is a valid question. Scripture doesn’t name a spot. In the Old Testament they did find Him at the tabernacle/ Temple often but not always. Just as often, they found God in the wilderness, or in even in a God-forsaken spot. You see, God can be anywhere. It’s not the spot that we find Him. That’s not what we’re after. It’s not the spot but the seeking that’s the point. When you seek Him with all your heart, more often than not, He finds you. God doesn’t listen to our voice, He listens for a heart.

There is more than enough hope. We don’t find it in some spiritual exercise, or in knowing more and more Bible (as great as that is). We find God (and hope) when our hearts are passionately seeking Him. It’s not finding something (hope), but finding someone.

Seeking Jesus
Jerry Rea