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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

The Wings of Hope

Have you ever noticed that the higher you get the smaller things look on the ground? Taking off in an airplane, we watch the earth get smaller and smaller. A football field becomes a green spot. An ocean seems only a blue landscape. There are no cities, at least that you can see, only lights. The higher you rise, the smaller everything seems. The truth is, nothing has changed. By getting further away we gain a different perspective. Often, the problems that obsessed us ten years ago seem today like just a patch of rough riding. In a similar way, we enjoy a trip to the beach for the same reason. A small break (even for just a few days) brings us home with a clear mind and better eyes. *Hope* gives us wings to rise up and away... if only for a short while and only in our hearts.

It's much the same with obstacles. The higher you get, the fuller you're able to see. We are able to see *beyond*. Obstacles keep our vision blocked. Human beings can see a long way, if there's nothing in the way. At the top of a hill, we might be able to even see the next state or an approaching cloud. We can't see through a mountain, but if we advance high enough we can see over it. Problems are like that. They descend on us like a heavy cloud making it impossible to see our way forward. It's not the reality that changes. The other side of a mountain has always been there. An ocean might rest there beyond the peak, but we don't see it. Hope lifts us high enough to see tomorrow, beyond the heartaches of today. Hope helps us to look beyond. We dream of another day, another time, with obstacles and chaos behind. By hoping in heaven we can climb the mountains of earth. If our Christian faith lifts us high enough, we can view the big picture. Sometimes we even get God's plan. Hope lifts us *up* and allows us to look *over*. On the wings of hope, we're able to get a glimpse of tomorrow. Hope gets our hearts high then gives our minds the courage to climb. Hope shows us an awaiting tomorrow. Realistically, tomorrow often has just as many problems as today. Without the wings of hope, however, we don't see its promise.

Hope gives us wings. They are the wings that lift us up to see (if only for a moment) the reality of tomorrow and its opportunity. We rise on wings of hope high enough that our crushing burdens begin to appear small. The burdens have not changed, but your eyes have changed. When we descend again, we come back with new eyes.

May God give you the wings of hope,
Jerry Rea