

July 17, 2020

Here's Hope

Hope will Happen

Reader's Digest says that it is often hard to believe in the future. We are often just not brave enough. And, hope is a future look. When that happens, the writer advises we concentrate on the present. Look at small things... small happiness, the joy you find in a sunrise or a gentle breeze.

I like that attitude on two fronts. First... it is often *not the big things*, that either make us feel hopeful, or not. It is often the little things anyway. Sometimes the little things are the big things. Then, the advice seems to encourage us to *cultivate* the ability to see those little things. And, you know, sometimes you have to look for the positive, but they are there.

To begin with you have Jesus. He has not left you, even though you may feel He has gone into hiding. Say, "I still have Jesus." Look to Him, talk to Him... search for Him. The Bible tells us to seek for God with all our heart and we will find Him. Sometimes you have to search. Then relax and hope will happen - maybe not now, not this morning, not this afternoon, but maybe tomorrow. That is your faith. Learn to rest (relax) on your faith, not your feelings. Feelings are as fickle as the morning fog... here, then gone. And truth is, some of us live in our feelings. So, we are up...then we are down... to then go up and then down. Tell your feelings that they are "just feelings," not necessarily facts. Last get around hopeful people. The contact with others will be good for you. Some of us - many of us, live isolated lives (the impersonal technology we use doesn't help any). I can't tell you how easy it is for Satan to pick off an isolated believer. Like a sheep that wanders from the fold they make an easy target. When you are with other people of faith, you bolster one another's hopes. When one is down, maybe the other will be up. It's easier to laugh when you're with someone else. It's easier to cry (and some of us need to let it out) when you are with someone else. Invite someone over... drop by and see someone at work (for a moment). Meet an old friend at the gym. If all else fails go to the store, you'll at least be around people. You may very well not be hopeless, you may just be lonely. And you know there is that gathering of the hopeful that we call church - a group of fellow-strugglers, looking in the same direction, and focused on the giver of all hope.

I Love You

Jerry Rea