

State of Your Faith 2/17/21

No Faith, No Hope!

Psalm 62:5-7 – “Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. My victory and honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.”

Often, we are willing to wait quietly on other people or things, but when it comes to God, we want our requests to be fulfilled right away.

If your faith and your hope are in anything other than God, you have no faith, and you have no hope. The only faith and hope that count are those placed in the Lord Jesus Christ. The only way to the Father is through Jesus.

It is not enough to call yourself a Christian. It is not enough to go to church or tithe, simply going through all the motions. You can't buy your ticket to heaven through good works. You need to have a relationship, not a religion. God wants to have a one-on-one relationship with you. This relationship begins when you wake up in the morning and continues throughout the day; it is not confined to Sunday morning. However, this does not mean you will not face trials and tribulations.

When you put your faith and your hope in other things—other people, money, the government, etc.—these things become your idols. These things will let you down. The only one who will not let you down is Jesus.

Romans 8:23-25 – “And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)”

We long for the day when we won't have to suffer anymore, but we are here in this time right now.

Keep in mind the historical context of this passage: Emperor Nero almost burned down Rome and blamed it on the Christians. As a result, the Christians were being persecuted relentlessly. They were being thrown in pits to be eaten by lions while the audience cheered. They were left beaten down and defeated, wondering why they had to endure such suffering and longing for the day when it would be over.

Your hope was established the very moment you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and put your faith in Him. This hope will not disappoint. This hope will bring you through your trials and tribulations.

Hebrews 11:1 – “Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.”

Forever

Accessing

Impossibilities

Through

Hope

Do not misplace credit for your accomplishments.

Your faith and your hope go hand-in-hand. If you have been putting your faith in other things, that is where your hope is. And vice versa.

In order to have true faith and true hope, you have to have a relationship with God.