

Words Of Spiritual Benefit III

115 - Hope (1)

The spiritual person who is known for the virtue of hope is always accompanied by hope in all the details of his life, which grants him strength and joy:

E For repentance and purity, he always has hope, knowing God will pick him up every time he falls and help him stand straight.

E He has hope in sharing with God every spiritual task that he encounters. He believes in God's goodness and protection, love and promise. This faith fills his heart with hope in His response. He is full of confidence that his request has reached the presence of God and that whatever God is going to do is for his own good.

E In each difficulty that he faces and for each problem, he has hope that God will save him. No matter how hard it is and how late God will be, this person has hope that God will come, even in the last hours of the night. Therefore, he does not ever lose hope.

E With this hope in him, he does not despair, does not know failure and does not accept the word impossible. With God there is hope, even in the smoking flax and the bruised

reed. There is even hope for the barren woman who never gave birth .

E God is the hope for those who have no hope and is the assistant of those who have no helper. God is the comforter of those with a broken heart and a harbour for those who are in the storm.

E This hope gives strength that springs from God, as the Lord says, *"But those who wait on the Lord, shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and shall not faint."* (Is. 40:31).

E It is a firm faith that does not shake because it depends on God who has no variation or shadow of turning.

Jonah the Prophet had hope, even when he was in the belly of the big fish.

E Hope in God gives joy, *"Rejoicing in hope."* (Rom 12:12).

E Hope is a driving strength for work. Hope does not mean idleness, relying on God ! Never, hope is rejoicing in the work of God. It urges one to share in God's work, with enthusiasm.

E Live in hope and wait on the Lord, rejoicing in Him and in His work.

143 - Hope (2)

Since the first sin and before the eviction of our fore parents from paradise, God granted them the hope of salvation and told them that the woman's seed will crush the serpent's head. This was the beginning of hope.

The story of Mary Magdalene gives us an example of hope.

This woman, out of whom the Lord cast seven demons, became a great saint and He entrusted her with the announcement of His Resurrection to His disciples. She was also with the Virgin Mary at the cross.

Also the example of Jonah the Prophet gives us the same hope. Who ever thought that a person who was swallowed by a great fish, kneels to God in the belly of the fish and says, "*I will look again towards your holy temple.*" (Jon 2:4).

The above two examples remind us of the three men who were cast in the burning fiery furnace, and Daniel in the lion's den. all are examples of hope.

There is no impossible in the life with God. There is hope whatever the sin is, whatever the troubles are and whatever difficult the case is.

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In the spiritual life, how nice are the sayings about hope in the Bible :

" ... all things are possible to him who believes." (Mark 9:23).

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil 4:13).

If you are fought confronted with hopelessness about your personal abilities, you will not be fought about God's power.

If you are not able to , God can:

Even if you are not seeking Him, He seeks you as He sought the prodigal son and the lost coin. He stands and knocks at your door to open for Him. How great is this hope that God is seeking you.

Satan, in keen insistence, does not lose hope to destroy the most saintly and continues fighting him. How more becomes our hope in God's salvation of sinners.

God gave us hope in incidents mentioned in the Bible, the numerous miracles like the resurrection of the dead, even the one who has been dead for four days.

The greater war by which Satan fights us is hopelessness.

147 - Resurrection is a Spring of Hope

Man triumphed in hundreds of fields except death. Before death, man stood helpless and hopeless.

Then came the resurrection to give the first victory over death :

The Apostle says in a challenge, "O Death, where is your sting?"

Then, hope in the eternal life enters man's heart and fills it with joy, that he will not perish or come to an end.

Also, the church receives those who pass away with the beautiful chant "it is not death to your servants but it is a transition."

The chanter also says in the psalm, "*The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted ... I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.*" (Ps. 118:16/17).

Victory over death gave hope to triumph over all other things, because who overcomes the powerful certainly can handle those who are weaker than him.

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Therefore, through victory over death, the morale of the children of God has risen, and our teacher St. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Also, before man there was no difficulty, no impossible, but "all things are possible to him who believes".

The spirit of the resurrection spread out its hope on everything.

Before any difficulty or problem stands the picture of the Lord who resurrected from the dead to give hope that after death there is life, and after darkness there is light, and there is a solution to every problem.

That is how the children of God lived "Rejoicing in hope" (Rom. 12;12). They see that everything around them "*Even though he dies, he shall live*" that is why they "*should not sorrow as others who have no hope*"

Here ends the grieves of Gethsemane and the passion of Golgotha, the suspicion and fear of the upper room. But the remains the picture of the bright angel before the empty tomb to announce the Resurrection.

**LECTURES IN PATROLOGY
THE SCHOOL OF ALEXANDRIA
Book one: BEFORE ORIGEN
FR. TADROS Y. MALATY**

III. FAITH AND HOPE

Faith is the beginning of the spiritual ladder that leads us to heaven; it opens the gates of hope in eternal life and heavenly glorification; therefore St. Clement say, "*Hope, too, is based on faith... Hope is the expectation of the possession of good. Necessarily, then, is expectation founded on faith*³⁰."

**THE FIRST EPISTLE OF ST. PETER
FR. TADROS YACOUB MALATY**

Hope: *“May be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ”* (v. 7). Hope supports the believer
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in tribulations for it lifts his eyes to the Great Day of the Lord to see:

- Praise: from God for his patience and endurance till the end. “
- Honor: in front of his brothers sharing with Him in the Heavenly Jerusalem.
- Glory: for he deserves to be united with the Heavenly Groom!

The Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Philippians
“Our Joyful Life in Christ”
Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty

Hope in *the transformation of our lowly bodies, that it may conform to Christ’s glorious body* [21]. Although we have no confidence in the flesh, we do not despise our lowly bodies. Its substance will not change, but it will have the experience of the resurrection Christ, His glorious body. It will pass from humiliation to exaltation, and will receive incorruption.

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Hope in God and His interference gives the heart joy and confidence. As the Apostle said, *“Rejoicing in hope.”* (Rom. 12:12).