



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – December 12, 2010

## ***Heart to Heart...***

People need hope! But what people are saying is hope, is not real hope. Most hope is nothing more than wishing or good luck type of hope. The hope of most is based on nothing but a positive wishing that nothing bad will happen. Simply put, most people's hope is in fate!

We need real, genuine life sustaining hope that comes from God. The hope of one in Christ is not a wishing or longing for the best but an expectation, a confident expectation. It's not "*the power of positive*" thinking kind of expectation. You know those types: think positive and good things will happen. True godly hope is an expectation placed in God and His promises. When one has true hope there is a sense of assurance and confidence because you know that whatever the conclusion is in ANY matter, it will be completely satisfying (Romans 8:28). How can we have such hope that satisfies? "***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.***" (I Peter 1:3) We will face difficulties in our lives but nothing close to what our Lord Jesus faced. The powers that stood against Him are so much greater than anything we will ever face, even in our health issues. But Jesus our Lord arose from the dead! Death couldn't master Him. He arose for our victory! "***In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.***" (John 16:33) Jesus knew His victory was coming before His death because of the hope God set in front of Him. God promised His resurrection and life! Jesus held to that promise. He had God centered hope before His death. Take courage!

Knowing Jesus was victorious on our behalf should bring us great comfort and courage by lifting our hearts. One day, all these struggles, all the disappointments, all the health sufferings will vanish away and there we will stand with the Lord Jesus Christ. We have a great reason to hope because our hope is based on His resurrection which should give us expectations. He won the victory. He overcame everything life (and man) threw at Him and is alive and living today. Jesus is ours! He lives! I realize we allow things we see to affect us and sometimes our emotions want to take hold but we need to fix our attention that He is alive and our Lord! He has been raised just as God promised Him but He promised us. If Christ really raised to a glorious, eternal life after His death (and He did), that single fact should be enough to offset the personal difficulties and disappointments in our personal lives. Paul said it this way: "***If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.***" (I Corinthians 15:19) The bottom line: if we truly believe that Christ has really risen, the rest doesn't matter that much does it? What are you expecting? Think about it!!!

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