



Church of Christ

May 4, 2003

204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

Christ gives us hope! Not a hope that produces questions, such as, "I hope everything works out!" The hope we find in Christ is a hope that produces a desire from within, knowing every thing will be fine because of His promises. Hope relies on two major principles: (1) *God is faithful.* (2) *God is able.*

It seems that many times we say the words that God is faithful, but doubts creep in wondering will He be faithful to me in my difficulties? "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it." (Heb. 10:13) We want to believe God is able, but our fears prevent us from relying on His promise. He will provide the way of escape! He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to bear. We respond, "I can't take anymore!" Notice how quickly God is thrown out. We must put some faith in the fact that God is able and will not allow. We must not doubt God!

People have difficulties and sometimes they seem like mountains. We fret, we panic, not knowing what to do. It takes us down emotionally. It drains our inner being. Recently at one of the meetings I was on, I dealt with a family that had lost a child. The father said he had nothing else left to live for. As I pointed him to God, there wasn't enough faith within him to grasp hold and stay tight. Once faith is lost, hope is gone! He could say the right words, but there was no faith within and he was constantly back and forth. He had fallen so far, he didn't even know for certain he could be saved. It was a sad and hopeless situation.

Hope in God! Is God really for us? Did He not give up His Son for your sins? Did God not justify us through the death of Jesus? Does Jesus intercede for us? It might do us good to read Rom. 8:31-34 again. If God didn't spare His own Son for our souls sake, do we not think He will do whatever it takes to get us to heaven? Shouldn't that alone give us hope? Faithless people can't see past what they see with their eyes and feel in their being. They are trapped in their own senses!

Hope disappears when God is no longer the center of our beings. God wants to help but we look at our defeats and misery as our god. Our defeats become enlarged, our pain increases and our faith dwindles. Our focus becomes our pain and the promises of God become meaningless. Hope is lost! Faith is abandoned. Slowly life becomes empty and we are just a shell. Has God forsaken us? *NO!* Is God for us? *YES!* Then where does the real problem lay? Whenever there is little hope placed in God and Christ, you will lose. When our hope is God and Christ, it will carry us to the end, no matter what we encounter. "And hope does not disappoint." (Rom. 5:5) Think about it!!!

Brent