

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart ...

People need hope! I don't mean the kind of hope that has a question in it. "I hope things go well!" We are talking a God-given hope. To have hope in God is tied to two elements: (1) God is faithful. (2) God is able. "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, so that you will be able to endure it." (I Cor. 10:13)

Many in Christ seem to want to believe God is faithful, but when they encounter a difficulty, the question arises from within, "Will He be faithful to me?" Doubts and fears arise and hope is lost.

To some, the struggles of life seem like mountains. Fears, anxieties, and a sense of hopelessness settle into the heart. We just don't know what to do because we don't know our Lord and God. To have hope in God is to have a **confident expectation!** How can one be sure? Look at the cross. How far was God willing to go to secure our lives? Isn't that what God is trying to tell us in Rom. 8:31-34? If God is for us, who is against us? If God willingly gave up His Son, will He not make sure we have what we need to make it to the end, no matter what we encounter? Hope has God at the center because He is faithful and is able to do as He says. We don't expect anything because our faith and trust in God is so small.

When does hope disappear? When God no longer is the center of our being! God has the resources (He is able) and will do what it takes for our well-being (He is faithful). We focus on our problems, our defeats and God gets pushed in the background. Hope is lost because faith is lost (Heb. 11:1). It's easy to speak of God, talk of His love and mercy, but real faith is the very foundation of hope and hope is based on His ability and His faithfulness in each and every circumstance. Does that eliminate our pain and suffering? No! It does bring God's faithfulness into the picture knowing that no matter what, God will be faithful to us. That alone should bring a confident expectation! We need God's faithfulness in life and death. God will be faithful and is able to carry us to the end no matter what we face here and now. Hope does not disappoint (Rom. 5:5). Where is your hope? Think about it!!!

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