

“Hanging Pictures”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Have you ever hung a picture or a mirror on the wall and then, as a helper stood back and looked at it and directed you, you tilted the picture one way or another until it was straight.

Initially, you hung the picture, and from your view, it looked straight, but after the adjustments, you walked back and took in the view that your helper had, and you could see that the adjustments really were necessary to reach your goal.

Let us consider our spiritual lives. We do things the best we know how. From where we are standing our spiritual “picture” is hanging straight. Unfortunately we do not always see the “Big Picture,” so God sent us the Five-Fold to help and “tweak” us.

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the



Notes:

[a] 1
Timothy
1:18

knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Eph. 4:11-13 (NIV)

These “helpers” are not here to do our part, they are here to direct us to slide our “picture” to the left or to the right—whatever will make it hang straight on the wall.

They often see what we are facing from a different angle and when we take their advice and “tilt the picture” this way or that, then we stand back and look at things from our helper’s perspective, we will find that their “tweaking” really did help us hang our picture straight. See in Paul and Timothy’s relationship that Paul “tweaked” Timothy as Timothy did the work God gave him to do.^[a] The Five-Fold members in your life are there to do that for you.

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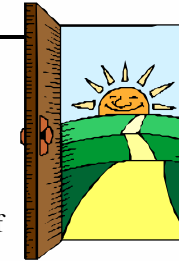
...with The Sojourner

“Hope Resurrected!” (Teaching Sketch)

Colossians 1:23 (NIV)

Recently we talked of Power Resurrected and most everyone wants to know, feel, and see the power of God in their lives. This is the “Year of the Open Door,” the open door to all the things of “The Kingdom.” So the question might well be, “How do I access them?”

Well, all things of God come through the funnel of faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God. It is not enough to believe in God, but you must also believe that he rewards those who seek him.^[1] It seems reasonable that a person will not reach out for something if they do not believe that it is possible to attain or get the thing for which they are reaching. Why try? We know that the scriptures tell us, in Proverbs, that hope deferred makes the heart sick.^[2] A person, therefore, who has not seen things for which they have had hope becomes discouraged and downcast, perhaps even defeated in life. They simply



give up! “Why try?” they say. These people, often, have no joy or pleasure in their lives, they are often, simply waiting to die. Scripture informs the Believer that the joy of the Lord is their strength.^[3]

Notes:

[1]
Hebrews
11:16

[2]
Proverbs
13:12

[3]
Proverbs
3:5-6

[4]
1 Corinthians
13:12

[5]
1 Corinthians
13:13

[6]
1 John
14:6

So we must believe in the Lord with all our heart and not on our own understanding^[3] because we, in this life, see darkly^[4] the things of The Kingdom. This darkness of vision can only be improved by fellowshiping with God in the Word, in the Spirit, and in our deeds. The Apostle Paul said faith, hope, and charity (love)^[5] abide with the believer and the greatest of the three is love. Why is love the greatest? Love is the greatest because God is Love.^[6]

Hope

Hope is necessary in the pursuit of the things of The Kingdom because with faith comes hope. They are traveling companions. Faith and hope are much more than

Scripture:

Colossians 1:23 (NIV)

23if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the **hope**^[a] held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Philippians 1:19-20

19for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.
[b] 20I eagerly expect and **hope**^[a] that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Notes:

[a] elpis
el-pece'
From root which is a primary word (to *anticipate*, usually with pleasure); *expectation* (abstract or concrete) or *confidence*:—faith, hope.

[b] Or salvation

[c] Hebrew

תָּוָה
to ch-eleth
to-kheh'-leth
; *expectation*:—hope.

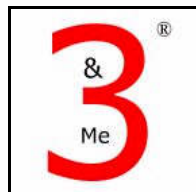
Proverbs 13:12

12 **Hope**^[c] deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

Romans 10:17

17Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Trust—1 a : assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something **b** : one in which confidence is placed
2 a : dependence on something future or contingent : **HOPE b** : reliance on future payment for property (as merchandise) delivered : **CREDIT**



“Hope Resurrected!” (Teaching Sketch)

Colossians 1:23 (NIV)

concepts. The Spirit brings us hope to lift us up. Please understand, hope is not a wish. Hope and wish have become synonyms in today’s culture but they have not always been so. Beware of Satan’s devices in corrupting words. One of the best examples is the word “bad,” which on the street has become a synonym of “good.” Notice as these words have changed, things which were once thought of as unthinkable in public have now become acceptable!

Hope is not something you want, but hope is in something you already have. This is why, if the Spirit of Christ lives in you, then Christ is your hope! Therefore, the Believer is to cherish a desire with anticipation and trust that God is faithful to his word, just as he demonstrated to the Israel^[7] over and over, as well as the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Jesus trusted God the Father to raise him up from the dead as he relied on the hope of God’s promise. We must trust in the hope of God to understand that we walk in “The Blessing” of God which gives us the fruit of “The

Notes:

[7] Nehe-miah 9:8

[8] Luke 24:13-29

[9] 2 Corin-thians 1:21-22; 5:5; Ephe-sians 1:13-14

[10] Romans 8:10-11

[11] 2 Corin-thians 1:20

Blessing” which is what we often refer to as blessings from God. So we live in a state of hope as we trust God to do all he promises with an assured reliance on HIS character, ability, and strength.

Holy Spirit A Deposit

Believers must understand that the Holy Spirit of God residing in them is God’s deposit to prove his faithfulness that he will do all he has promised in this life and in eternity.^[9] This deposit is like that of a person who goes to purchase land and to show that they are serious and intend to keep their word, put up surety money to show they will be faithful to carry out their promise.

Faith, Hope, Love

The Holy Spirit of God resides in the believer. In fact the scripture say to the Believer that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in them.^[10]

We must not only believe God exists. We must even trust God to keep his word in all matters. This is the time of the open door, walk through it into the promises of God.^[11] KEEP HOPING!