

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.



MORE THAN I HOPE SO!

BY BECKY COMBEE

Sometimes life brings us desperate moments that shatter our composure. In these times, we might address God, our Father, with an ineffective some-way, somehow prayer. Overcome by fear and worry, we cry, "Do something, God. Do anything." Our prayer ascends to heaven cloaked in anxiety and marked by apprehension. Like a contestant



playing horseshoes with his eyes closed. we just throw in the right direction, hoping for good results.

This cross-your-fingers mentality reveals our 21st century understanding of the word "hope". Today, we "hope" everything works out, but we are not convinced that victory is possible. We are unsettled, insecure, and restless. Our thoughts and our words are filled with "maybe so," "could be" and "why not."

IT'S IN YOUR HANDS

BY SUZANNE D WILLIAMS

I was struggling the other day, full of "how's," "why's," and "what-about-me's," when in my agitation, I decided to pray. Now, I don't recall my exact words. Most likely, they were not so much full of faith as full of complaint. But I remember vividly God's response.

"Put this back in my hands, Suzanne."

You see, so many times I think our frustrations come, not from God's hesitation - He's not sitting in heaven looking at his watch, waiting for the right time to come - but from our inability to stop doing what it is His job to do.

Once again, I had picked back up God's responsibility.

Why is it we think we are to pray and then answer our own prayers? It makes no sense, yet we do it all the time.

"God, I need this or that," we pray, then we proceed to make it come to pass. There comes a point where we have to let go and trust God to keep His word. We find this all through the Word of God.

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps. (Pr16:9)

O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. (Je10:23)

This modern day “hope” does not provide an answer to prayer.

The scriptural definition of hope given by Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words is “favorable and confident expectation.”¹ This confident expectation is the necessary foundation of faith. Faith and hope work



together like the pitcher and catcher in a baseball game. Although each player has a specific responsibility, they must depend on one another to win the game. They must work together! According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, the word “together” means we are ‘in contact with each other, in agreement or harmony.’ The combined action of faith and hope paves the way to success.

The work of hope establishes the will of God in our lives. It always leads the parade of our heart and establishes the destination. If our faith has no hope, no expectation, no specific desire, no goal or aim, it is ineffective and we fall short of God's plan. The Word of God declares, “I hope in thy word.”² Thus, hope always says, “My desire will happen because God has promised. The New English Bible

explains that “faith gives substance to our hopes.”³

Faith marches forward with hope's expectation and receives from heaven's open hand.

As we fellowship with God, He implants His desire in our spirit. The psalmist records that God will “give you the desires of your heart.”⁴ Many interpret this verse to mean that God will

give you anything you want. But I believe it is correctly understood that God will give, or cause, His hopes to be revealed to our heart. The apostle Paul confirms this when he writes, “It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”⁵ Truly, God who dwells in us establishes His will and His hope in our inward man. He brings this specific hope or desire to pass when we trust in Him.

Faith and hope perfect our lives. They point the way to God's plan and stand by in confidence as God performs His plan. They are road signs of success, waiting hand in hand, until the will of God is accomplished. First, there is hope, then there is faith. When these intertwine, there is victory!

¹G1680 *elpis* ²PS 119: 81 ³Heb 11:1 ⁴NKJ ⁵Php 2:13

The Lord God directs our steps, not I direct my own steps. In my own self, I am insufficient to the task. At some point, very plainly, I will fail. No, God brings me promotion. God provides the finances. God protects me with His peace. These are His jobs. The good news is, He will do them.

What does it say in John 14:14?

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

He WILL do it. There is no hesitation in

that statement. God has spoken.

So once again I laid down what I had mistakenly picked up. There comes a point in faith where things are out of our hands and into His. Our job is to believe He is wise enough, strong enough, and powerful enough - to believe He is faithful to keep His word.

I have felt much lighter since then. I still in the natural don't know how or what God is entirely up to in my life, but I plan on believing He will continue to do it.