

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD



Living Faith Chapel, Calgary (Solution Center)

JULY 9, 2017

Word for the Week

THE HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS

Text: John 5: 2-9, Psalm 3:2-6, Mark 4:35-41

We bless the Almighty God for giving us the grace to see another Sunday and another day of fellowship in His presence. This ability to gather before Him every week is not of our own but a gift from our loving father. It is therefore incumbent upon us to always acknowledge the rare privilege of having life in us.

You look around you and the world and you see poverty, joblessness, afflictions, persecution and sicknesses, hardships, inhumanity from man and you wonder; doesn't the Lord God Almighty care? If the Lord God is a God of Love, which He is, why can't He solve all these problems? The hope that God has provided for you is not merely a wish. Neither is it dependent on other people, possessions, or circumstances for its validity. Instead, biblical hope is an application of your faith that supplies a confident expectation in God's fulfillment of His promises. The book of **1 Peter 1:3-6** rightly puts it this way: *"Praise to God for a Living Hope. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. Hence, Christ in you is the Hope of glory."*

We shall be looking at God as the Hope for the hopeless as well as the ingredients to activating your hope in God as contained in **John 5:8**.

1. First Ingredient - Rise Up (Get Knowledge): *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"*; not lack of faith or lack of power (**Hosea 4:6**). In other words, you need to acknowledge the existence of your burden and affliction but at the same time, you must seek for information which the Lord has promised concerning that situation. God has a better plan for you (**Jeremiah 29:11**). Jesus saw this man and asked if he wanted to be healed but he had no knowledge of who was talking to him. How many of God's promises in Christ do you know?

2. Second Ingredient – Pick up Your Mat (Turn to God): *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* (**2 Cor. 12:9b**). *"I have put my hope in your word"* (**Psalm 119:74**). What is your weakness? Maybe it is a son or a daughter that hasn't quite turned out the way you thought he or she would, a job situation, a medical diagnosis that has scared you. Whatever it is, Paul says he will boast in those things because when we are weak, the power of Christ rests on us. Whatever situation you are facing, if you're not confident that God is going to act graciously and powerfully on your behalf, you don't have hope. You may really want things to turn out okay, but it's not hope unless you believe confidently in the power of Jesus Christ to get you through, whatever it is you are facing.

3. Third Ingredient – And Walk (Act): *"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer"* (**Romans 12:12**). This is the time to cry out to God because He is near and he always wants to glorify Himself in our lives. *"The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing"* (**Zephaniah 3:17**) . see also **Psalm 3: 2-6** and **Zechariah 4:7a**.

I decree that every mountain on your way to the next level shall become plain in Jesus mighty name. Shalom!

NB. If you have been blessed by our Word for the Week or inspired in any way by them, please let us know by sending an email to The Pastor at pastor@rccglfc.org.