

Do You Hear What I Hear Devotion

When you look to Jesus, do you see hope? You do? Great! But...hope in what? Let's pause for a moment and think about all the things you have hope in through Jesus.

What did you come up with? Hopefully a big list, because there is so much to hope for in Jesus! Because without Jesus there isn't much hope.

Jesus is our game changer, he literally changes our life, our after-life, our reality. Often times we tend to think only on one side of the hope in Jesus and that usually is the hope for eternal life in paradise with Him. But that is one part of the picture, an important part, but only one part.

Yes one day there will be no more suffering, no more pain, no more death and we will live perfectly with our God, as we see depicted in Revelation 21. There is great hope in this future reality, but what about now?

Of course there is hope in Jesus right now, hope for a better life filled with the Fruit of the Spirit as we can read in Galatians 5:22-23; "but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. A hope to walk with God everyday through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. All of us who follow Christ are given this reality, but this reality takes much determination and discipline, for it does not come naturally. This is a skill that needs work because as the world around us is hostile toward the Light and Truth of God.

When we choose to listen to the way the world operates, we are not walking with God, not having hope in Jesus, but rather listening to and following ourselves.

The world operates out of chaos and discord. When we respond with worrying, stress, malice, annoyance, sharpness, harden-hearts, we have lost our sight, we have lost our Lord - even if only momentarily.

See what Jesus did when he came to this world; he brought a new way of life. Not one filled with harshness, anger or stress, but one filled with Him. This new way of life is living in the Kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of God, which Jesus established right here on Earth. Is it perfect or complete? No not yet, but it has commenced. And as a follower of Jesus, you have a choice to have hope in Jesus or hope in the way the world operates.

As we begin to prepare for Christmas, let us listen to "Do you hear what I hear."

Yes, God is with us and there is much hope in that!

Let us pray.

Jesus, Give us eyes only for you. Help us not to run to broken ways to live, but to live through your strength, purpose and love. When things look bleak, help us to remember that when you entered the world, it too looked very bleak. However, you changed everything and there is much hope through your story. Help us to see that hope every day. When we become discouraged, let us remember you. When we become weak, let us turn to you. Jesus you are always the answer- for you are the only answer and with that we say amen.