Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #11

Hope

**Hebrews 10:19-25 (NASB)** *19  “Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20  by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21  and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22  let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23  Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24  and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25  not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”*

Twenty years ago, Tom Hanks played the part of a FedEx executive named Chuck Noland on his way to Malaysia who crash landed on a remote island. While there Chuck had to figure out how to survive without going crazy. Nearly giving up, he survived because of a picture of his wife and a volleyball that he affectionately named Wilson that had washed ashore from the wreckage. That ball became a friend and close companion and a source of hope to continue until he was rescued.

It is amazing what people have gone through and the stories that have come out about their circumstances. Many have survived the most brutal situations or lonely situation because of the will to live and the deep-seated determination to continue, no matter what. Many survivors of military war camps from WWI and WWII have unbelievable and heroic stories of survival that came as a result of their will and determination to hold on to hope. When this pandemic is over, you should take time to go to the Holocaust museum in Washington D.C. It contains story after story of people’s lives who survived great atrocities to themselves and their families and friends who held to the hope of freedom and liberation from the Nazis.

The writer to the Hebrews gives the greatest of hope that anyone could have. A hope that goes far beyond the will of the human spirit. It is in this book that God reminds His people of the hope they have of eternal life. Beginning in verse nineteen, the writer affirms and reassures the reader that we can have confidence to enter the presence of God because of our Lord Jesus Christ who paved the way. It was Jesus who gave His human flesh, the true veil between us and God, as a sacrifice so that we could have immediate and direct communion with the Father.

Therefore we should, with full assurance and confidence, draw our hope in this life from Christ and what He did for us. Notice the writer says in vs 22, “Let us draw near with a sincere heart, in full assurance of faith.” Because of what Jesus did, our hearts are sprinkled clean from evil and an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water. And vs 23 is the tie that binds this together. Because we have Christ as the One who cleansed us, we can and should hold on to hope and never waver because Jesus is faithful to see us through. Praise His Name!

Beloved, as the days of this pandemic stretch out, it is easy to begin to lose hope that life will return to normal. And maybe that’s true. Maybe there will be a new normal we have to live with. But, even if that’s true, let’s always put our hope in and on the right hope - the hope that this life will soon pass. Because of His faithfulness, we will forever be with our Lord in Heaven. We can’t lose beloved. The only way you will lose is if you have never put your trust in Christ as Lord and Savior.

Right now we are not able to be together physically, but we can sure encourage one another. Please take time to encourage someone today. Offer them the hope you hold in your heart of eternal life. Show them there is every reason to be encouraged because your Lord as done all to give you hope. You may encourage someone by just calling them to let them know you are thinking about them or you may give someone hope by praying for them. Whatever you do, do it with confidence in Christ and with the hope you have because of Him.