

Elder Bobby Willis



Hope Realized

The word “**Hope**” is stated by the Apostle Paul as “**an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast...**” (Hebrews 6:19). To lose hope is to lose our anchor which holds us firm when faced with the trials and tribulations of life. Yet there are many who go through much, if not all of their lives, not realizing anything about “**hope**” or who it is based in. Life without hope is miserable, plain agony.

Not long ago I ran across the following story of a young man in a hospital who within his young heart had lost all hope of not only having any quality of life, but of having continued life at all.

A school had a program which helped children injured or severely sick to keep up with their school work during extended stays in the hospital. A teacher was assigned to visit a particular child and talked with the child’s teacher to see what they were working on. The child’s regular teacher indicated they were studying nouns and adverbs at that time and did not want the child to fall too far behind.

The teacher/tutor went to a local hospital not knowing the actual condition of the child or what mental state he would be in concerning school work. No one had told her he had been severely burned and was in almost unbearable pain. She could only stammer at the sight of his condition but managed to tell him that she was sent by his school teacher to “*help you with nouns and adverbs.*”

The young tutor left the hospital thinking she had not been able to do much good at all. However, the next afternoon when she again went to see the student, his nurse stopped her and asked, “*What did you do to that boy?*” The teacher was afraid she had done something wrong and even began to apologize.

The nurse again stopped her and said “*You don’t understand. We have been so worried about this little boy because he had given up and seemed to have no hope in having any quality of life or even living. All hope seemed to be gone from his young life. But now, just since yesterday, something has happened. His attitude has changed*

and he is beginning to respond to treatment. He appears to have hope for the first time since his accident.”

It was two weeks later before the boy shared with the tutor what had happened to him. Everything in his life changed when he came to a simple conclusion about the teacher’s trip to see him and the reason for it. *“They wouldn’t send you to work on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy, would they?”* he said. The hope of living had returned to his life and it changed his attitude and outlook.

Now, when God’s children are able to realize that God would not send His only begotten Son to suffer and die for us, would not give us hope of an eternal Paradise, UNLESS God would someday return to unite our bodies with our spirits and take us home to be with Him after the Resurrection.

David said it this way, **“Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope”** (Psalm 16:9). He later said, **“...my hope is in thee”** (Psalm 39:18). And then expressed the joy in knowing where hope comes from, **“Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:...”** (Psalm 146:5).

Hope is not some flimsy wish or wanting something to happen. True hope for God’s children comes from the Lord and it is high time we stop and understand what the young boy who finally felt hope again, realized when he made a simple conclusion after hearing the tutor’s words. God’s children find hope when they hear the gospel message preached by God’s ministers concerning the Salvation of God. Plainly, the gospel gives us hope.

“Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Our faith needs to be so strong that in the midst of what appears to be hopelessness, we can be made to realize that Christ is our hope of a better day, both eternally and while we yet live on this earth.

Paul expresses the joy of having hope, how we are to react when in the midst of tribulation, and what can help carry us through if we will just use what the Lord has instructed us to do without ceasing. He said, **“Rejoicing in hope: patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;...”** (Romans 12:12). **“Think About It!”**