

## Faith is the Realization of Things Hoped For!

July 1, 2015

Dear Brethren,

We hope this letter finds you walking the road to salvation yoked beside our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ/Messiah. For if we are not yoked with Him we will not have a true hope, for He is our hope.

In this day and in this age we who have been called by the Father are being both enticed and assaulted in every conceivable way possible. However please do not become overly discouraged. I say overly because what is taking place all around us has been declared to us in the Holy Scriptures long ago so that we would not be caught unaware as to the times we live in. It has all been spelled out long ago. As Linda often tells me and our children; someone had to be here at this time of vile behavior and evil abounding. There is very little in the world to encourage us when it comes to what we witness each day and that in fact is exactly why we do not focus on it. Yes we are present in the world but not of the world. There is no hope to be found in it. Our hope is embodied in our relationship with our Creators; our Savior/Husband and our heavenly Father. There is no hope in men or in the ways of man. One does not have to look very far or long at the events taking place around us to come to that conclusion if we have the spirit of God/Elohim dwelling in us. The actions of our governing bodies in our respective countries can be summed up as pure evil these days. It has overtaken every high office in the land. Their respective actions are being proclaimed as good and the things of God/Elohim as evil. No need to elaborate for we should all be able to bring such things to mind if we are being alert to the happenings around us. What I do want to elaborate on is our hope in Him who can fulfill and accomplish in us individually, the work which the Father has started at our calling.

In Hebrews 11:1 we read; "Now Faith is the substance (or realization) of things hoped for, the evidence (or confidence) of things not seen."

**Simply put; if our hope is not focused on the things of God/Elohim we will not have the faith which is required to be pleasing to Him, for verse 6 tells us; "But without faith it is impossible to please (Him), for he who comes to God/Elohim must believe He is a REWARDER of those who diligently seek Him."**

**Do not let anyone ever tell you that you can't be pleasing to God. Yes you can and it is all predicated on your work of faith! God does reward us according to our actions which are conducted in faith which are pleasing to Him!**

Have you been discouraged from diligently seeking our Savior and our Father? I can certainly understand if you have. However it must not become a permanent thing. A temporary or momentary lapse is common to us all, but it should only be just that; temporary or momentary. There is no doubt in my mind that we are at the end of the age. All the signs associated with it are surrounding us at this time in vivid displays and only increasing in intensity.

Dear brethren this is not something to be discouraged about but on the other hand we should be encouraged by it, for it clearly tells us about the time frame we are living in. We are at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of our journey on the road to salvation, and just prior to the return of Christ/Messiah. We should be focusing on our relationship to, and with, our Savior; and in fact beseeching Him to the point of pestering Him to complete the work in us that we can't complete ourselves. In Luke 18 we read the parable of the widow pestering the judge. It is in that venue that we are told the following in verses 7-8.

“And shall God/Elohim not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? (Oh yes our Lord bears long with me so I also know He bears long with you) I tell you that He will come speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes will He really find faith on the earth?”

Those are the words of our Savior! He was to some extent here, lamenting; but not wavering in what He knew to be true, but experiencing a temporary or momentary doubt because He was flesh and blood at that time just as we are. He clearly knew what would happen for God/Elohim said so, but His human nature was showing, just like ours does all too often. That is a fact which we should acknowledge in our relationship with Him. Hebrews 4:15-16 make it clear.

“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we, yet without sin. Let us therefore come **boldly** to the throne of favor and acceptance that we may obtain mercy and find favor and acceptance to help in time of need.”

Are you in a time of need? I know I am! I need His help more and more each day to stay focused and to overcome the pulls of this world and of the flesh. Some may think if that is the case I must be failing. I don't think that. I believe this is recognition of how much I need Him in everything I do. If I rely on myself I am surely doomed to failure. Maybe this is simple minded and if so then I am happy to be there for He did promise He would finish in us (me) the things we can't. It is up to us to do our very best. If we could do it all ourselves we would have had no need for a Savior. He is actually my hero, as well as many other things. When I read Hebrews 3:18 I cry out; Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

“For in that He Himself has suffered (on our behalf) being tempted (or tested). He is able to aid those who are tempted.” No matter what state you are presently in; it will change! Consider it part of your personal test in your relationship with our Savior. The adage of “It is easier said than done” may apply here in some instances and could be true except for one thing; we have the spirit of God/Elohim dwelling in us. That is what we draw on during the dark days, and as we all know, the plan of salvation will be a success if we believe what is written; our Creator will finish what He started. It is His promise to us if we do not leave or forsake Him. We have our part to do in it before He picks up the finishing part. There is a sequence, a pattern to everything God/Elohim does.

To those of us who are called it consists of 3 stages. Revelation 17:14 sums the stages up. “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those with Him are **called, chosen, and faithful.**”

Yes dear Brethren and Saints of the Most High we are called by the Father, and then chosen by Christ/Messiah. They do their part, and then it is our turn to be faithful. Will you and I remain faithful to our calling by the Father and our being chosen by our Savior/Husband ?

As Hebrews 11:1 tells us; faith is not possible without hope and our hope is embodied in Christ/Messiah. One of the most beautiful descriptions of this hope in Him is found in Ephesians 5:25-27.

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ/Messiah also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify, and cleanse it with the washing of the water of the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

How incredibly comforting that is. When you may be feeling like you are falling short of the goal or mark, take the time to dwell on these 3 scriptures which we have just read. I have need to read them often. Why? Because I know for a fact how often I fall short. Way more than I should for having Gods/Elohim spirit, but I boldly turn to my Savior and ask Him to make it better. Boldly but not in any form of arrogance, but in believing what we read earlier in Hebrews 4:16; “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of favor and acceptance that we may obtain mercy and find favor and acceptance to help in the time of need.”

So what may be going on in your life which may be deflating your hope in Christ/Messiah? Are you sick, or maybe without a job, or being abused by others, or falling into debt, or any number of unpleasant circumstances. Please do not allow such things to diminish your hope in our Savior, for that very trial may be a personal test designed and allowed by God/Elohim to test you. So often when brethren find themselves in a bad way, they think Christ/Messiah has left them when nothing could be further from the truth. Each and every one of us needs to refocus on what our relationship is with our Savior/Husband. It is not always going to be a cake walk. He is at this time attempting to choose the balance of those who will inherit all things with Him as the bride, in the household of the Father for eternity. He has some hard choices to make, and so do we. He needs to be sure that we will always be faithful to Him in the responsibilities of that function, forever! The only way He can truly know that is to design personal tests for each and every one of us. Some are more severe than others, some will last much longer than others, but always remember it has nothing to do with Him leaving or forsaking us. On the contrary it encompasses our ability to have a deeper relationship with Him. It is so very human to think the exact opposite.

Our Savior gave us a promise we should never lose sight of in 1 Corinthians 10:13; “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God/Elohim is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear (endure) it.”

Look to Abraham’s time of temptation with his son Isaac. Do you think he was not tempted to walk away from what he was asked to do? He was as human as you and I.

Genesis 22:1-2, "Now it came to pass after these things that God/Elohim tested Abraham, and said to him, Abraham! And he said here I am. And He said, take now your son, your only; Isaac whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Can we possibly imagine what was running through Abrahams mind? Sure he remembered the promises about Isaac, but! Can any of us equate any trial or temptation we are going through with the likes of that one placed on Abraham?

We know what happened next; we can read about it in verses 3-13. Let's just read verse 12 to refresh our memories. "And He said, do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him for now I know you fear God/Elohim, since you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me."

What depth of trial or temptation will we need personally to endure to prove our faithfulness to Christ/Messiah? Abraham showed that he believed God/Elohim above all else, and would follow Him wherever He went.

In Revelation 14:4-5, in speaking about His bride, we read that very same thing. "These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were bought from among men, firstfruits to God/Elohim and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile (deceit, falsehood), for they are without fault before the throne of God/Elohim."

So where do we go from here brethren? We go before the throne of God/Elohim to claim the promise from Christ/Messiah that He will give us the strength to endure and in fact complete what we cannot do our selves.

That to Linda and me is very uplifting and reassuring in these very difficult and evil times we live in. He will give us the strength to overcome if we are unwavering in our hope in Him. Please remember what He says to us; "You do not receive because you do not ask." Never stop asking, and be patient in the hope which is in you, and do the works of faith.

Our peace we give to you.

Brian and Linda