



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – November 5, 2017

Heart to Heart...

How are you doing in your soul? How is your spiritual health? When we see those we haven't seen for a while we always ask, “*How are you doing?*” or “*How are things going?*” wanting to know. But what if we saw someone and asked “*How is your soul?*” It might take people by surprise, yet isn't that what life should be about? The state of your soul is tied directly to your hope. Hope is what takes us beyond what is seen into the reality of God. There really is life after death, and we need to put our hope in the Lord rather than living for the here and now! Jesus is living eternally. There are those who live on a false hope believing as they want to believe and trying to find security in the things that are fading only to hope all things will end well.

The proper type of hope is a wonderful, spiritual truth that sends a person down a spiritual path clinging to God's righteousness and truth. Maybe we need to define true biblical hope. It is based on faith that desires God at His word and expects God to do as He says in every situation faced. In other words, it is a desire coupled with expectation. Abraham had this very hope. “***In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become the father of many nations according to that which had been spoken.***” (Romans 4:18) Abraham put his faith in God's word, solely relying upon the promises spoken by God and his hope was not put to shame. God did exactly what God said He would do, even when things didn't look right physically! Abraham desired the truth from God and expected God to fulfill what was spoken.

Hope is not a wishing. It takes a saving faith to have real, genuine hope (Hebrews 11:1). Biblical hope, a faith hope is not by chance but a desire coupled with expectation because of God's word.

Too many doubt and live in their fears hoping by chance the worst won't happen. The faithless live this way. Peter said it best: “***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***” (I Peter 1:3-5) Read these verses carefully and you see faith, hope and the assurance of life after death.

How are you doing in your soul? How is your spiritual health? It all depends if you have a hope of faith or a hope of wishing. “***The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I have hope in Him.***” (Lamentations 3:24) Think about it!!!