

February 3, 2020

Love Never Fails – Hope

1 Cor. 13:7-8a It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
8 Love never fails.

The Greek term for hope here is *elpizei*. It means that the love of God fulfills every hope we have. Psalm 147:11 But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love. This love is steadfast and the Lord enjoys those who will put their hope in His love. Everything about God's love gives us hope. Jer. 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Our relationship with our Heavenly Father is based on His love and the hope that brings us. It also allows us to give that kind of love to others who are looking for something to put their hope in. The Word is full of instances of this type of hope. One of my favorite scriptures is found in the amazing 40th chapter of Isaiah - 40:31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Many years ago, I saw a gospel tract entitled "The Hole Story." It depicted a man with literally a hole in the middle of his body. Try as he may, he couldn't find anything that could fill up that empty place in his life. He tried money, fame, drugs, relationships, and all for nothing. It seems that there was not one thing that could fill the hole until someone shared with him the hope that is found in Jesus. When he encountered Christ, he immediately realized the hole had been filled and he was made "whole." God's love, through the atonement of the blood of Jesus, brings us the only real hope in this world. Romans 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God's love is based on His plan of eternal life. This is our hope, that we too will be with Him forever. So we walk by faith, not by sight. And now it is up to us to share that love, full of hope, with everyone we can.

Dear Father, thank You for the hope that we have in You. Thanks for letting us see Your amazing love, experiencing it, and now being commissioned to take that love to everyone who will listen. Help us Lord. In Jesus Name, Amen