Cecil and Lisa Paxton Ministries September 2023

This hope is like a firm and steady anchor for our souls. In fact, hope reaches behind the curtain and into the most holy place. Hebrews 6:19 (CEV)

Thank you to all our partners and friends!

As I am writing this letter, my thoughts go to all the ministry we have seen in the many places we have traveled in August, all the lives changed by Jesus. I am not just speaking of the church meetings or the men's group I spoke at but also the divine appointments that were just waiting for us to show up.

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One example was a hospital visit for personal ministry. The man and his wife were totally surprised that I was there.

At one of the meetings, we saw a person who had an encounter with the power of the Holy Spirit and experienced such freedom that their physical look became wonderfully different.

It is you, our partners and friends of this ministry, who are a part of all that the Lord is accomplishing through us. This is fruit that will follow all of us right into heaven.

Long-Term Challenges of Life

Hebrews 6:19 (CEV) This hope is like a firm and steady anchor for our souls. In fact, hope reaches behind the curtain and into the most holy place.

Hebrews 6:19 tells us that hope has the ability to anchor our souls. In fact, we are told that hope is a firm and steady anchor for the soul. But speaking of an anchor for the soul can lead to speaking of the serious storms of life, and those have an element of danger that can produce fear.

The soul is the mind, the will, and the emotions. The soul is the place within our



hearts that is either influenced by the Spirit of God or by the circumstances of life through communication with any of our five senses. This influence determines what we are dwelling upon in our thoughts and imaginations and what we feel emotionally, making the issues of the heart so real to us.

Mark 7:20-21a (ERV)

²⁰ And Jesus said, "The things that make people wrong are the things that come from the inside.
^{21a} All these bad things begin inside a person, in the mind."

Matthew 6:25a (NKJV)

Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life.

Matthew 6:33a (NKJV) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Whether we experience the help of the Holy Spirit or human discouragement depends, of course, on where our focus is on Jesus or on the problem (Heb. 12:2). It also depends upon which dominating influence we are experiencing. This will result in good or bad decisions we make out of our will.

So, hope is like a firm and steady anchor. A ship's anchor is used to moor the ship to the bottom of the sea, to keep the ship safe from possible destructive movements. Likewise, people who are anchored find themselves in a firm, secure position that provides stability and confidence in potentially serious situations.

If this is what hope will accomplish for us, then it is important to understand what hope is. There is a difference between what we want and what we believe. Therefore, it is very important that God's kind of hope is established within our hearts as the way we relate to life.

A biblical definition of *hope* is to anticipate with pleasure—a confident, trusting, and patient expectation of good.

I believe that without the help of the Holy Spirit as our Teacher, we will not be successful in establishing this kind of hope within our hearts.

In John 14:16-18a (CEV), Jesus said this:

¹⁶ Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you.

¹⁷ The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you.

^{18a} I won't leave you like orphans.

And in John 14:26-27 (NKJV), Jesus said,

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

The result of the Holy Spirit helping us as our Teacher is that we will experience God's peace, and that peace will keep our hearts and minds—the very two areas that need protecting. This place of Holy Spirit peace will lead us to where we will hear God's voice in areas where before we didn't.

When our hearts are hard, we are only sensitive to ourselves, but with our focus on the Lord, we experience humble hearts in which we value His voice over our own.

Romans 15:13 in the Amplified Bible says it so clearly:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.

Thank You!

Lisa and I are very grateful to you, our friends and partners of this ministry, as together we are seeing lives changed. We believe that you, our partners, are greatly prospering—spirit, soul, and body—as you experience increase in the seed you have sown multiplying and increase in the fruits of your righteousness. God's richest blessings in Christ are already yours. Believe and establish this truth in your hearts and have open hearts to receive all that God has given you in Christ Jesus.

Happy Labor Day!

Love and blessings,

Cecil + disa

Testimonies from Friends and Partners

The things [you've been] talking about in these last few messages have especially been helpful in understanding how to receive. It's awesome. Thanks! Always wonderful to hear the Lord's thoughts through your lives.

Brilliant teaching, thank you. It's exactly what the Lord has been showing me during recent years getting back to freedom. I would love the fullness of this message to hear and to hear! I have only heard a few teach on this subject and then not in such depth. It is so obvious from learning more about [you] and Lisa that you both truly love Him intensely and love people and care so much.

Thank you for the kind note and hearts of gratitude. [I] am still in your book on the issues of the heart. It is one of the deepest and [most] revelatory books I have ever read on the heart, and you have no idea how many I have worked through. In closing, I share a powerful quote from my amazing husband, [who is] now with Jesus. We had a tithe and offering account, and money just kept flooding into our accounts. I asked him, "Where is all this money coming from? I know how much I pull out and transfer to these accounts each month." He [said], "It's somehow God's math! I don't try to figure it out!" Wow! Praise You, Jesus, for opening my heart up even more as You have given us everything and all You have done is a debt we can never repay except [to] lay our lives down for Your glory!



Colorado Ministry Office: 2021 Toyota Tundra Truck

Thank you to all of you who are helping us to operate as a debt-free ministry, owning our building and all ministry equipment, so that finances can go directly toward ministry.

We are very grateful to those who have given and are blessing the seeds that you have sown. I believe that you have sown into your future. The last of the work we are having done to the truck is replacing the small gas tank with a larger one, which will cost about \$3,446.06. I'm not sure why the last person to own this truck would have wanted a small gas tank, unless they did not plan on doing much driving. During this last ministry road trip, I realized that at times, we spent almost a dollar per gallon more for fuel than we would have with a larger-capacity tank. I believe that this new fuel tank will pay for itself and, over the life of the vehicle, will result in a large financial savings.

Thank you for believing with us! To give toward the truck's new gas tank, you can donate through our website, by phone, or by mail:

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