

Living With Hope

By Dr. Kerry M. Johnson
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One of the key ingredients necessary for persevering through the difficulties of life is hope. A lack of hope may lead a person into depression or lead him or her to give up on life, on a marriage, or on the fulfillment of a cherished dream. However, God wants His children to abound in hope (Rom. 15:13). But what is hope and where can we find it?

More often than not, we have a wrong idea about the nature of hope. Like the little boy, we think that "hope is wishing for something you know ain't gonna happen." That is not biblical hope! Hope in the Bible is a confident expectation that God will keep His promises. Therefore, hope is an act of faith. The parallelism in Psalm 71:5 supports this assertion, and the author of Hebrews proclaimed that faith is the substance (i.e. the assurance or reality) of things hoped for (Heb. 11:1). Biblically, hope is expressed by waiting upon God (Ps. 33:18-20; 39:7-8). Waiting involves trusting and expecting God to act in fulfillment of His Word. Hope is the assurance that your waiting will not be in vain.

But what is the basis for such assurance? This assurance rests upon the character of God. He is both able (Rom. 4:19-21) and faithful (Heb. 10:23; 11:11) to keep His promises. Moreover, He is a loving heavenly Father who cares deeply about His children (Mt. 7:7-11; 1 Pet. 5:7). Therefore, He shows us His promises and encourages us to trust Him to keep His Word (Ps. 31:24; 38:15; 39:7; 42:5, 11; 43:5; 71:5; 78:5-7; 119:81, 114, 116; 130:5). As Warren Wiersbe has said, "We live on promises, not explanations."

Some of the promises of God will not be fulfilled until we are present with the Lord (e.g. entering our heavenly home or receiving our glorified bodies). However, God has given us many promises in the Bible that we must learn to claim by faith as we sojourn in this life. Consider the following promises of God.

- Promise of God's purpose and control, Rom. 8:28-30
- Promise of God's strength, 2 Cor. 12:9 and Phil. 4:13
- Promise of God's wisdom, James 1:5
- Promise of God's provision, Phil. 4:19 and Mt. 6:25-34
- Promise of God's presence, Heb. 13:5
- Promise of God's help, 1 Cor. 10:13 and Heb. 4:16
- Promise of God's peace, Phil. 4:6-7

These are promises that God wants us to believe and live by right now. While God may allow us to walk through some dark valleys, we are never without hope, because the God of hope is always with us (Rom. 15:13; Heb. 13:5-6). He is both able and faithful in keeping the promises He has made to us!

ANOTHER HYMN HISTORY

By Dr. Alfred B. Smith

SOME GOLDEN DAYBREAK

“My friend, we have a glorious hope, the Bible calls it a blessed hope for Christians. The Bible also tells us that one day the trumpet will sound and Jesus will come back to take his children home! Dear friend, all your suffering and pain will be over, you’ll have a new body, arms and legs that are missing will be replaced—friend, we’ll be like Jesus! You’ll have a glorified body someday, some golden daybreak when Jesus comes back.” The Reverend C. A. Blackmore, one of America’s pioneer radio preachers, was giving a message on Christ’s second coming or the Rapture as it is called theologically.

A few days later Reverend Blackmore received a letter from a woman listener who had been bed-ridden for many years. She wrote, “Rev. Blackmore, the message you gave on Jesus coming was such a blessing to me, I’ve been an invalid for almost 25 years and sometimes I get so discouraged, I can hardly wait for the Lord to come—to think I’ll be able to walk again and there’ll be no heartaches there. Thank you so much for your sermon.”

This dear woman was not the only one that had been touched with the message. Rev. Blackmore’s son had. Carl was the pianist and soloist for his father’s broadcast and the message that day struck a chord of reality in his heart—what a day that will be! Remembering the words of his father, “Some Golden Daybreak,” he began to compose a Gospel chorus with that theme and soon he had it completed.

Some golden daybreak, Jesus will come,

Some golden daybreak battles all won.

He’ll shout the victory, break through the blue.

Some golden daybreak, for me, for you!

He played it over but it seemed to call for more than just a chorus and so he composed a suitable musical setting for some verses. It gave a complete feeling to the song, but who would write the verses? This was settled when Carl asked his dad if he would. He consented saying, “I’m not much of a poet but with the Lord’s help, I’ll give it a try.” The Lord did help him, for sometime later he handed his son the completed verses. The song was then published in a special leaflet. It became popular immediately and soon young and old alike were singing the glorious truth—“Some golden daybreak, Jesus will come.” ABS

Editor'sNote: The words and music for "Some Golden Daybreak" are located on the next page.

ANOTHER HYMN HISTORY

By Dr. Alfred B. Smith

SOME GOLDEN DAYBREAK

Some Golden Daybreak

C. A. Blackmore

Carl Blackmore

1. Some glo-ri-ous morn-ing sor-row will cease, Some glo-ri-ous morn-ing
2. Sad hearts will glad-den, all shall be bright, Good-bye for - ev - er
3. Oh, what a meet-ing, there in the skies, No tears nor cry - ing

all will be peace; Heart-aches all end - ed, La - bor all done,
to earth's dark night; Changed in a mo-ment, like Him to be,
shall dim our eyes; Loved ones u - nit - ed e - ter - nal - ly,

rit. Heav-en will o - pen Je - sus will come.
Oh, glo-ri-ous day-break, Je - sus I'll see. Some gold-en day-break
Oh, what a day-break that morn will be.

Refrain

Je - sus will come; Some gold-en day-break, bat-tles all won, He'll shout the
vic-t'ry, break thro' the blue, Some gold-en day-break, for me, for you.

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