

April 29, 2020 ~Praying for Hope When Things Seem Hopeless~

“Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning: great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:21-23

Eternal God, these days drag on and on for us. Because in all things you know the ending from the beginning, you knew the days of waiting would be long, but we did not. Surely you came even closer to us to wait with us because you knew we’d grow weary in our waiting. In your wisdom, you’re not even a little surprised that our hope and conviction to be obedient to guidelines, sheltering, closings, and restrictions would begin to wane after a time of waiting much longer than we could have imagined. Our thinking was wishful thinking. You know how impatient we are, so our hope for finding a way to “fix” this unprecedented attack was short term thinking, but it’s turned out to be a long term battle. Help us, Lord, to hang onto hope because you are a faithful and ever present God With Us.

Jeremiah’s hope was anchored in your great love for him. His thinking wasn’t wishful thinking. It was hopeful thinking. He’d experienced your compassionate character, and knew your concern for his sufferings and misfortunes. Your compassion never failed the courageous and persistent prophet you chose to deliver prophecies to the people. Each new morning he expected your compassion because of who you are Lord, his God and our God of great faithfulness.

Today, we’re struggling to survive all that’s changed in our lives these past months and to remain hopeful in spite of fear for our health and fear for our future. So many painful obstacles have come between us and the memories of the comfortable and reliable life to which we’d become accustomed. We never imagined that a virus we couldn’t see would break down our human spirit, our security, our prosperity, and crush our way of living. The same prayers we’ve been praying since March 19, still need our prayer attention. Help us to be obedient to the time we set aside to spend time with you God. You are our compassionate Father. You are the hope of your hopeful children in what seems, to be a hopeless situation. Help us, God, to remain faithful, because hope is very much like our faith.

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1

Merciful God, we pray for circumstances we see today....

~~For patients suffering infection and those critical and near death

~~For those in senior care facilities who cannot see their families and are isolated with their fears and susceptibility

~~For all students, their teachers, and their home teachers

~~For graduates, athletes, brides and grooms, and all whose dreams have been denied or delayed

~~For those who have lost their jobs, lost their incomes, and lost confidence in the protections of all they had worked for to provide for themselves and their families

~~For those with medical needs that were planned and cancelled, those bringing a new life into this world, and those with medical, cancer, cardiac, and emergency procedures that must be performed in hospitals where infection is a risk

~~For families and friends who cannot gather at memorial services to honor the memory of those they loved and have lost

~~For those who have contracted the virus without adequate protection while helping others: doctors, nurses, caregivers, workers in food plants, workers in retail stores, airports, law enforcement, and respondents to emergencies

~~For those who are alone in a home or apartment

~~And for the prayers of my heart_____

Gracious God, we've seen all these hard circumstances, and we struggle with the loss of confidences that we had before this all began. Our situation seems hopeless, but we ask for assurance and encouragement for our human spirits through your Holy Spirit in us. In our quiet times, gather your people of hope into your arms for assurance of what we cannot yet see about the end of what seems hopeless.

Holy Spirit, renew our hope. Help us to remember and depend on your character, God; your mercies, your compassion, and your faithfulness, to restore our hopefulness. You are all powerful over everything and everyone. We ask in Jesus's Name that though our circumstances in this pandemic may seem hopeless today, we can feel the confidence and hope of Jeremiah. Thank you, Gracious God, for your great love, your compassion that never fails, and each new morning of hope. Great is your faithfulness. Amen