

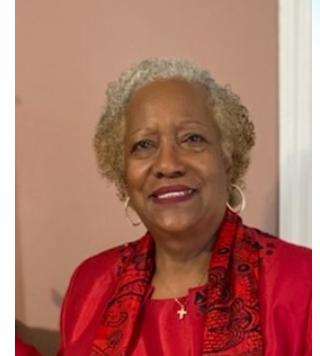
## Newsletter

### Is There Hope for Me?

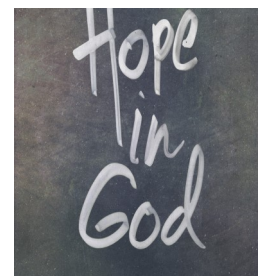
Most of us made New Year's resolutions and have already forgotten that we even made them even the strategy we were going to put into our efforts to get what we wanted accomplished. The way we were going to do it has fallen by the wayside. The complicated matters that we try to fix on our own continue with little or no hope for improving. Some will try to redefine themselves or their body. Some will just try to be better in some way. I looked at my granddaughter's resolution list and one of the things she said was "I am going to be more obedient." That is a good one even for some of us, but not easy to do on our own without the help of the Lord. I was baffled by an attractive young couple, both deputies, who recently took their own lives leaving behind a new born son. I just cannot understand what made them do it? What made life so miserable that they just could not take it any more?

Where does hope come from? If I make the statement that Jesus is our hope, some people will say that I am a religious fanatic. The truth is "Jesus is our hope" for a better tomorrow, a better life, and prosperous future. Jesus is the light of the world. When we follow Him, we manage to find our way through the deep valleys, to climb the mountains, and go through the darkness of life, because He gives us hope. When we exercise our self-will and power, we do not get the result that we want. There are two ways that we can fail at achieving the results we want 1) doing things our way under our own power or 2) Calling on Jesus to help us achieve something that is NOT His will for us. I want to share with you the benefits of knowing Him. We that are Christians already can examine ourselves and see if we are on the right road for victory. This lesson comes Romans 5:1-5.

Romans 5:1 ***"Since we have been made right with God by our faith, we have peace with God. This happened through our Lord Jesus Christ..."*** We all value peace. For many 2020 was turbulent and for some it still is. Global warming made its mark on climate change in our country through unusual weather patterns causing wildfires, tornadoes, etc. As a result, many lives were lost, homes destroyed, and people displaced. All of this occurred during a pandemic. The only place a person can find peace in these trouble times is in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Have you ever heard someone say that they had peace in the time of a storm. What they meant was, when everything was collapsing or chaotic around them, they had an inner peace that they couldn't explain. Philippians 4:7 tells us, ***"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*** Isaiah prophesied in chapter 9:6 that the Savior would come as the Prince of Peace, "Peace on earth and goodwill to men." David realized the importance of peace in his own life, and he said in Psalms 34:14 ***"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it."*** Jesus promised us peace, He said, ***"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives, I give it live peaceably with all men."*** If you want peace, do your



Rev. Dr. Frances M. Harris



Once you choose hope, everything is possible.

Christopher Reeve



## Is There Hope for Me?



***“Forgiveness is  
the attribute of  
the strong.”***

**Gandhi**

do your best to capture it through the lessons of Jesus. There are people you won't be able to make peace with so don't let them steal your joy.

I love the song, *“Since Jesus Came into My Heart; floods of joy o're my soul like a sea billows roll, Since Jesus came into my heart”* because it expresses the beauty of having a relationship with Jesus. Romans 5:2 reads, ***“Who through our faith has brought us into that blessing of God's grace that we now enjoy. And we are happy because of the hope we have of sharing God's glory.”*** There are blessings for the saved on earth and eternally. We have access by faith to his grace and mercy. Grace is unmerited favor. It is not something that we earn or buy. It is a gift from God. We can be happy because we have HOPE in the promises of God. Because we have hope in what God has promised us, we are glad to share the gospel of salvation with others. It is by God's grace that we have hope that will not disappoint us.

It is a mystery how one can have joy when going through trials or tribulations. Romans 5 verse 3 says, ***“We also have joy with our troubles, because we know that troubles produce patience.”*** The world does not understand how we are able to glory in our troubles. The world does not understand how we can weather the storms of life and continue to stand on His Word. It is a mystery to us, too, but we know where our help comes from. We feel the heat in the fire when we are going through the fire, but when we call on the name of Jesus, there is something about that name that cools the flames and give us the power to stand. Rance Allen and his group was able to raise the roof with a song *“There's something about that name Jesus, it is the sweetest name I know.”* There's power in the name of Jesus. There is joy, unspeakable joy, and endurance. His grace is sufficient for us to stand. Because of our faith, we can stand and glory amid our trials, because we know they only come to make us strong.

Psalm 27:1

***The Lord is the light of my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my light; Of whom shall I be afraid?***



# Hope

## Yes, there is Hope for You?

If you surround yourself with positive people who build you up, the sky is the limit.

If you trust God with all of your heart and not depend on your own understanding, He will show you what to do and which way to go.

*There is only one way to avoid criticism: say nothing, do nothing, and be nothing.*

Aristotle

How many times have you been told “You must be patient.” Whether we like it or not, we all must be patient at some point in our lives. Romans 5:4 says, “***And patience produces character, and character produces hope.***” Patience gives us endurance and enables us to wait on God. We learn that things do not happen in our timing, but in God’s timing. We learn how to be still and know that the sovereign God we love and serve will not abandon us, so we trust Him and wait. That is spiritual maturity. Patience brings character or experience to help us understand that God’s timing is not like our timing. While we are waiting, by faith we trust Him to work things out for us. It is wrong to expect Him to help us by changing someone else first, a miracle may need to take place in us first. Sometimes we want to tell Him how to fix our problem, but who knows better how to fix it than the one who created the earth and everything in it. Proverbs 3:5-6 says “***Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on our own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.***” Trust Him. Romans 5:5 tells us an infallible truth, “***And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts. He gave us his love through the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us.***” God proved His love with two precious gifts, 1) “***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.***” Jesus is the light of the world. He was that unblemished lamb that paid our sin debt. With every drop of blood that He shed; love poured down from the cross. 2) Through the Holy Ghost our hearts are filled with His love and we can shed (pour out) it broad. Therefore, we can love the enemy and pray for those who despitefully. We can love one another.

Is there hope for you? Yes, yes, yes, there is hope for you. I want to invite you to accept the best gift you could ever have and that is salvation from the gift-giver, Jesus, the Savior of the world. He is our hope for a better tomorrow and the light who will lead us to eternity.

Psalm 37:39

***But the salvation of righteous is from the Lord ; He is their strength in time of trouble.***



God has big plans for you

Plans to give you the future you hope for.

JEREMIAH 29:11 - THE MESSAGE



## Conclusion

**“The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.**

**H. Jackson Brown,**

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

I pray for the one who just made the decision to accept You as their Lord and Savior; bless them with the gift of salvation. Bless them with hope for a better life with You now to eternity, in Jesus' name, Amen.

**Sinner's Prayer:**

*Dear Jesus, I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth that you died for my sins and you were resurrected that I might spend eternity with you. Forgive me for my sins; create in me a clean heart and right spirit, in Jesus' name, Amen.*

If you said that prayer and meant it in your heart, you are now a part of God's family. Find a church that teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ and how to use that measure of faith that God has given you.

If you've missed me on radio, please beware that the station WJFP was bought by the college whose programming is different. I have something that I am working on that will allow me to resume my program "Getting to Know Your Bible". In the meantime, there are other religious broadcasts that you can tune into. Just remember to read your Bible and learn about Christ so that you will know the truth when you hear it. Everything that sounds good is not right. Follow sound doctrine. The Holy Spirit will help you.

Signed,

Rev. Dr. Frances M. Harris, Ordained Minister

President and Founder—Progressive Christian Women

Associate Minister—New Testament Baptist Church of America, Inc.

