

Cultivating the Virtue of Hope ***Anchor of the Soul***

*“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for he who promised is faithful.”*

Hebrews 10:23

Godly hope cultivates spiritual maturity, strength, vision and peace.

Coming Before Lord God Adonai

Dear Heavenly Father, I come before You today that You may bear witness to my commitment to cultivate the godly virtue of hope, to be a man/woman of inner strength, honor and valor; to walk out the virtue of hope in a way that inspires and models to others Your promises of eternal life.

The Keys to the Virtue of Hope

Dear Father God, I see that the keys to cultivating the virtue of hope are found in the verses preceding Hebrews 10:23 which speaks directly of hope: *“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”* For it is these things that give us hope:

- ◆ **We have confidence based upon access.** *“We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus.”* Hebrews 10:19
- ◆ **There is a new way of access to Christ Jesus.** *“A new and living way opened for us through the curtain.”* Hebrews 10:20
- ◆ **We have a great priest looking out for us.** *“We have a great priest over the house of God.”* Hebrews 10:21
- ◆ **My heart draws closer to God.** *“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart.”* Hebrews 10:22
- ◆ **I have assurance that faith brings.** *“The full assurance that faith brings.”* Hebrews 10:22

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- ◆ **My heart is cleansed.** *“Having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience.”* Hebrews 10:22
- ◆ **My purified body.** *“Having our bodies washed with pure water.”* Hebrews 10:22
- ◆ So the virtue of hope is an acceptance, knowing and believing in the promises of Christ Jesus, that He has made a way for us to be in union with God, that we have an advocate, Jesus the High Priest, that as we cleanse our heart and purify our body and soul, we shall attain the promises of eternal life and the joys of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Being Blessed Gives Us Hope

- ◆ Dear Lord Jesus, I see how the Beatitudes that You taught us are the foundation and food for cultivating the virtue of godly hope; and how You were expounding on the Law and Prophets before You in the Beatitudes. You unwrapped the teachings of the Old Testament (the Torah and Tanakh) and gave them to us as assurances of blessedness, which gives us hope. So I take hold of these Beatitudes as the nourishment for godly hope.
- ◆ Matthew 5:3 teaches: *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*
- ◆ From Isaiah 61:1 brings the ultimate hope that I profess: *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord anointed me to bring good news to the humble; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to captives and freedom to prisoners.”*
- ◆ So this Beatitude transmutes suffering to divine destiny.

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- ◆ Matthew 5:4 says: *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”*
- ◆ Isaiah 61:2-3 says: *“To comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the cloak of praise instead of a disheartened spirit. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”*
- ◆ So this Beatitude brings a higher purpose and fruits to mourning, which brings hope amongst the experience of loss.
- ◆ Matthew 5:5 exhorts us: *“Blessed are the gentle (humble), for they will inherit the earth.”*
- ◆ Psalm 37:11 comforts us: *“But the humble will inherit the land and will delight themselves in abundant prosperity.”*
- ◆ Matthew 5:6 teaches us: *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.”*
- ◆ Isaiah 55:1 proclaims: *“You there! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”*
- ◆ And Isaiah 55:3 continues: *“Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David.”*
- ◆ So this Beatitude brings hope knowing that striving for righteousness brings its own rewards from God our Father.
- ◆ Matthew 5:7 says: *“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”* Hebrews 4:16 says: *“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

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- ◆ Lamentations 3:22-23 says: *“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”* How can I not have hope within my own soul when I hear these Words?
- ◆ Matthew 5:8 says: *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”*
- ◆ Psalm 24:3-5 proclaims: *“Who may ascend onto the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? One who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to deceit and has not sworn deceitfully. He will receive a blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”*
- ◆ My hope deepens and matures realizing that your Beatitudes came 1000 years after Psalm 24 was written! Seeing how God perfectly aligned His Word across time and space!
- ◆ Matthew 5:9 continues: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”*
- ◆ Isaiah 26:1-3 presages You Jesus, as our strong city: *“We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”* Thank you Jesus Yeshua, for giving us perfect peace.
- ◆ John 1:12-13 affirms the promise of this Beatitude: *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”*
- ◆ John 16:33 says: *“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*

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- ◆ How Lord God, can I not possess the virtue of hope when I digest these Words together?
- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I see how the last Beatitudes help me to use difficulties as the bread of hope. For Matthew 5:10 says: *“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*
- ◆ Matthew 5:11 continues: *“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.”*
- ◆ And Matthew 5:12 consoles: *“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*
- ◆ 1 Peter 4:13-14 inspires me to embrace persecution: *“To the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, and of God, rests upon you.”*

Our Future Glory

- ◆ Dear Jesus, You gave us hope of a glorious future of our own, as your life as Son of Man blazed a trail for our own spiritual destiny.
- ◆ As You prayed in John 17:22-24: *“The glory which You have given Me I also have given to them, so that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and You loved them, just as You loved Me. Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”*

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- ◆ I take hold of this Word, that I shall be with You where You are in your Heavenly abode; and this gives me the ultimate hope. In this, I have peace and faith knowing that my journey on this earth is for the destination in You and with You.
- ◆ 1 Peter 5:10 assures: *“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”*
- ◆ How can I not grow in hope when I take hold of this beautiful promise?

Predestined in Christ Jesus Deepens Hope

- ◆ Dear Father God, the virtue of hope is sharpened and deepened within me, believing in Your Word in Titus 3:5-7 which tells me I am an heir to eternal life. I take hold of this promise, for truly, *“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*
- ◆ Truly, *“we celebrate in hope of the glory of God,”* according to Romans 5:2. The vision of this future life, embeds hope into the fabric of my being. Thank you God, for this incredible spiritual destiny that awaits me.
- ◆ Lord God, I take hold of Romans 8:28 as the blueprint of godly hope, knowing that as I love you and live out your purposes for my life, all will work together for your good; and this gives me a foundation of hope for my life. *“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”*

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- ◆ Romans 8:29-30 seals the deal — knowing that I am predestined in Christ Jesus, how can I not live in divine hope? *“For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.”*

Sealing Prayer:

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

*“But we, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness,
so that the day would overtake us like a thief;
for we are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of
darkness; so then, let’s not sleep as others do, but let’s be alert and sober.
For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk,
get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let’s be sober,
having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet,
the hope of salvation.
For God has not destined us for wrath,
but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep,
we will live together with Him.
Therefore, let us encourage one another and build one another up,
just as you also are doing.”*

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