



Scripture nugget - Christian hope is indestructible

For though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit appears on the vine, though the yield of the olive fails and the terraces produce no nourishment, though the flocks disappear from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD and exult in my saving God. GOD, my Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet swift as those of deer and enables me to tread upon the heights (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

If God is for us, who can be against us? (cf. Romans 8:31). If God is on our side, what does it matter who is against us? God in His great generosity made us His children through adoption in Christ (cf. Ephesians 1:5). There is nothing that can come between us and God's love for us (cf. Romans 8:35) except when we distance ourselves from God through unrepented sins. All power is from God alone (cf. John 19:11). With God's unchanging love and absolute power upholding us, we have no fear of any enemy visible or invisible. Thus, Christian hope is not based on human power but the invincible power and enduring love of God. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden when they ate the forbidden fruit, God did not forsake them but was quick in declaring a loving solution. God made a huge personal sacrifice and sent not an angel but His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to bring about the redemption of the human race lost through the original sin of Adam and Eve. Through His holy prophets and later through Jesus Christ, God made us wondrous promises; promises which we should constantly recall in order to keep our faith strong and gratitude alive. *He Who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all, how will He not also give us everything else along with Him? (cf. Romans 8:32).*

My God, my God why have You forsaken Me? (cf. Matthew 27:46). When Jesus was agonizing on the Cross on Calvary, in His humanity, He felt as if God the Father has abandoned Him. But He knew it was just a human feeling, and He persevered on the Cross. God, in His unsurpassed power, is always in control at all times no matter how negative we may feel. Despite looking like He was the helpless victim of wicked people, Jesus told His disciples: *This is why the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from My Father.*" (John 10:17-18). God the Father's plan for Jesus is perfect. Unquestioning obedience to God leads to the crown of imperishable glory. God's plan for each and every one of us is also perfect. What is required of us is unwavering trust and hope in the wisdom, love and power of God.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, all my hope is derived from You because You are the source of all good. You promise that You will never forget me because I am inscribed on the Palm of Your Hand (cf. Isaiah 49:15-16). You promise me a place in heaven and to be where You will be (cf. John 14:2-3). In my pilgrimage on earth, You promise to be with me always (cf. Matthew 28:20). You ask me not to worry and said that even every hair on my head has been counted (cf. Matthew 10:30). You promise to take care of my every need if I place God's Kingdom on top priority (cf. Matthew 6:33). You tell me that with God nothing is impossible (cf. Luke 1.37). Fill me with Your Spirit so that led by the Spirit my life can become a hymn of praise and thanksgiving to God. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.