**Hope in God! – Ps. 42: 5**

**Focal Truth: When I hope in God therefore, I am not hopeless!**

We live in times that call the church to hopeful living!

We live among people of all ages filled with hopelessness!

Believers battle with despair mixed with our hope, while we live among the hopeless

What is Christian hope?

Why is it vital to our Christian life & witness in the world?

Peter said, but even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed, and do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness & reverence – 1 Pet. 3:15

Today I want to confess my hope in God!

***Hope expresses what faith believes!*** In the next weeks: I will seek to confess my hope in God and give an account for the hope that is in me! I pray my confession of hope in God will be an encouragement to you & your walk with God.

Every believer must be able to confess their hope in God to those who are without hope in the world & to fellow believers for their encouragement.

We will learn what it means to hope in God & how we strengthen our hope in God!

**Observations**

1. **I hope in God as I pursue a deeper relationship with Him – 42: 1 - 2**
2. My soul pants for God like a deer for water - 1
3. My soul thirsts for God – the living God -1

Lord Jesus said, blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled

1. My soul longs for times of meeting with God -2 – “when shall I come & appear before God?

Ps. 43:3 – 4 – send your light and truth and let them lead bring me to your holy hill, and to your dwelling places, Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy

Hope grows as we meet God in prayer & scripture

Hope grows as we meet God in worship

Hope grows as we meet God in stillness & quietness

***The more I know God, the more I trust & hope in Him***

1. My hope in God grows as I seek to deepen my relationship with God
2. **I hope in God as I confess my times of despair to Him – 42:3 -5**
3. Hope is mingled with despair from living in this world – 3 -4

My tears have been my food day and night - 3

My enemies mocked & ask where is your God? – 3

My memories of encouraging past times of worship with God’s people - 4

1. Hope is mingled with despair in the soul - 5

Why are you in despair = bowed down, crouched, troubled, emotionally sad

Why are you disturbed = crying, murmuring, growling, turbulent in me

1. Hopefulness is guarded when we admit to times of despair - 5
2. Despair & disturbance come from both outside & inside
3. Despair & disturbance destroys our hope in God – Ex. 6:9 – Moses spoke to the sons of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses on account of their despondency & cruel bondage
4. **I hope in God as I trust Him to change my despair to hopefulness – 42:5,11**
5. Trust in God leads to hope in God – “for I shall again…”

*Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence*

**Hope in God – is assured confidence in God – faith in God is united to hope in God**

Assured confidence that we have what we need from God

Assured confidence that the future is certain because of God

Assured confidence that the all things work for good from God

Assured confidence that you will again praise God from despair - 5

Assured confidence that God is with you in all of your circumstances – 5

**Hope lives on God & His promises**

**As I trust in God – I hope in God**

**Things to Remember**

1. Hope lives in confident assurance of God’s promises – what He promises He gives!
2. Hope confesses what faith believes
3. Despair steals away hopefulness – it reveals a lack of faith in God
4. Faith in God gives us hope = confident assurance in God – Heb. 11: 1 – faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen

**Daily Use**

1. Hope in assured confidence in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ – 2 Cor. 13:14
2. Hope in assured confidence in the love of the Father – 2 Cor. 13:14
3. Hope in assured confidence in the fellowship of the Spirit – 2 Cor. 13:14

**Ps. 42:5 – why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence.**