

hope does not disappoint

"why are you cast down, o my soul? and why are you disquieted within me? hope in God; for i shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God." psa 43:5

life is hard. harder on some than others. "i returned and saw under the sun that – the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all." eccl 9:11

-----

God knows

when you are tired and discouraged from fruitless efforts...

God knows how hard you have tried.

when you've cried so long and your heart is in anguish...

God has counted your tears.

if you feel that your life is on hold and time has passed you by...

God is waiting with you.

when you're lonely and friends are too busy for a phone call...

God is by your side.

when you think you've tried everything and don't know

where to turn...  
God has a solution.

when nothing makes sense and you are confused or  
frustrated...  
God has the answer.

if suddenly your outlook is brighter and you find  
traces of hope...  
God has whispered to you.

when things are going well and you have much to be  
thankful for...  
God has blessed you.

when something joyful happens and you are filled with  
awe...  
God has smiled upon you.

when you have a purpose to fulfill and a dream to  
follow...  
God has opened your eyes and called you by name.

remember that wherever you are or whatever you are  
facing...  
GOD KNOWS.

author unknown  
-----

that's our Father. the One who know the end from the  
beginning knows us inside out. "Jesus did not commit  
Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no  
need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew

what was in man." john 2:24-25 He knows our good thoughts and our bad - our disappointments and our anxieties - our pains and our sorrows.

i'm here today to tell you that if He doesn't deliver you from it, He will deliver you through it. "God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." 1 cor 10:13 we have His word on it.

none of us know why one's life must take a detour or cross a difficult path while others do not. whether it be because of our decisions, the people in our life or those circumstances of "time and chance." nothing - but nothing comes upon God unaware. and if, perchance, it happens just for God's glory, so be it.

"we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." acts 14:22 just like the story we told yesterday, if there must be scars in our life, bear them as badges of honor. a friend wrote yesterday how she had so often pleaded with parents to "dig in" and "don't let go." do you have friends and loved ones you are believing for? fight for them as God fights for you. who knows if you stand on the very edge of a deliverance, a miracle or a revelation.

here is something i read this very morning. "there's no limitation with God. if it's in His will, He will do it. outside His will, everything is limited. the more you are in His will, the more you commit - inside His will, the more unlimited He will show himself to you. there is no limit to what God can do. we limit

God, even in our prayers."

i watched a video the other day and they told of a study once performed on rats. three rats were thrown into water. they swam for about three minutes and then they drowned. they then threw three more rats in and just as they were about to drown after three minutes again, they reached in and pulled them out. the next day they threw those same three rats in the water again. this time they struggled for forty-five minutes before drowning. they thought they would be rescued again. if a rat can have hope why can't you? "return to the stronghold, you prisoners of hope." zech 9:12 it is our stronghold!

HOPE! it is a powerful thing. "that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us." heb 6:18 believe for yourself. believe for loved ones. believe for those you reach out to. wear any scars as badges of honor. remember - He's holding you even as you are holding others. "a threefold cord is not quickly broken." eccl 4:12 we have the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - all holding on to you. maranatha!