

pray . fast . give .



Living Lent | Day 38

Our Hope is Secure

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10 NIV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

Our collective dependency on Google, social media and cable news as primary sources for information has left us with uncertainty about information available to us. Theft by perception may be the greatest thievery of modern times. If we are not careful, the world can steal our ability to perceive the real hope we have in Christ. It is so easy to be distracted away from prayer and studying God’s word. While we have a need to communicate via phone and computer, these devices offer many opportunities for interruption. Distractions pop up throughout our day by way of posts from friends, news stories and commentaries. If we are not careful, our perceptions can be stolen by some whose only motives are profit and power. How would large corporations or politicians ever benefit from helping us maintain a sense of hope? Most of the messages we have been bombarded with in recent months seemed to steer us more towards a spirit of fear, worry and anxiety. If we no longer see the world through the filter of God’s word, our altered perception may leave us without hope, or at least our perception of hope.

The world has no power to take away our hope. We give away our perception of the hope we have only when we allow the world to distract us from it. The hope we have in Christ is described in Hebrews 6:19 as an “anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” Let us draw closer to Jesus and through His word be able to feel the anchor of hope that secures us. John 10:10 says that Jesus

came so that we “may have life, and have it to the full”. Let us find hope in the here and now from this verse.

God has purpose for our lives here on earth, and for eternity. He wants us to have life to the full! This past year, hope has sometimes been hard to grasp hold of as we have endured real fear and witnessed much tragedy and civil unrest. Hope was never lost, and can never be taken from us, but can be hard to feel at times. We just have to hold on tightly to the promises of God’s word to perceive the hope of Christ in our lives. Prayer and reading of scripture will keep us anchored to the promises of God.

Today, many will come together for the Lord’s Supper. As we drink from the cup and partake of the bread in remembrance of what Jesus did for us all, let us allow this time of remembrance to awaken a spirit of renewed hope for now and for what is to come.

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice through fasting throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

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Contributor

Melinda R. Sams, Brunswick, Georgia, is the wife of Frank, and mother to Casey and Reid. Melinda has spent her career in service to children. She currently serves as the Director of Therapeutic Foster Care with Twin Cedars. Melinda is committed to encouraging women through leading Bible studies at First Baptist Church Centerville. Melinda believes fully in grace and restoration through Jesus Christ.

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