



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- June 13, 2024

The Lord be with you.

How is your hope for the future right now? I don't know what you're going through today or all that is happening in your life. But how is your hope? I'm asking that because from what I've experienced, when you've lost hope, you've lost most everything I read somewhere that a person can live without food for 40 days, without water, for four days, without air, for four minutes, but can only live for seconds without hope. So I want to talk with you for the next few moments from God's word about hope and where you and I can find hope because the Bible is a book about hope.

For instance, first Peter chapter three verse 15 says that you and I are to always be ready to explain when people ask the reason for the hope we have within us. Or there's the Apostle Paul who says that there are three things that abide three things that are truly lasting in life, faith, hope and love out of the Bible's many passages about hope for the future.

I am today looking at Psalm 147 verse 11 where it says the Lord takes pleasure in those who hope in his steadfast love. That means that you and I could make God smile big today. We could give God delight for us to have hope in his steadfast love note here.

That biblical hope goes far beyond wishful thinking. It goes beyond the power of positive thinking. It goes beyond. Oh, I hope things will turn out ok. As biblical hope is based on a person, Biblical hope is based on God based on God's character who God is and all that God promises you and me biblical hope is not dependent on our circumstances. It's not dependent on how we might be feeling about things. The text says here that the Lord takes pleasure in those who hope in his steadfast love. This verse is part of a psalm of praise that celebrates God's goodness. God's greatness.

Psalm 147 praises God that He, it says that He heals the brokenhearted. He binds up their wounds. It praises God that He determines the number of the stars and gives to all of them their names. And then here in verse 11, it says that the Lord takes pleasure in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Now, I just have to comment on the Hebrew word here translated as steadfast love. It is the Hebrew word hesed. That's H E S E D. And I, I like to talk about God's hesed at every opportunity I can because because hesed it is one of the great words of the Hebrew Bible. We do not have an English equivalent for the word Hesed. And why it is variously translated as for instance, in the King James Bible, it's translated as Mercy. In the new international version. It's translated as unfailing love in the New American Standard Bible. It's translated as faithfulness by the new English translation, translated as Loyal Love. And so you get the



water from rock

idea that these different translations of the one Hebrew word hesed, it tells us that this is a rich multifaceted, profound word, a very literal translation of Hesed is covenant love.

You see, it is love that is based on a covenant. God's covenant with us, that I will be your God and you will be my people. And so it is loyal, love, a steadfast love, faithfulness, mercy, unfailing love. That is all based on the fact that God has entered into covenant with us. Not hear the difference between a covenant and a contract. A contract is conditional. A contract says if you, if you do this, then I will do that. A covenant is unconditional. It's unconditional in which God pledges to us. His steadfast love, his loyal love, his mercy, his faithfulness come. What may and and that's why we call marriage a covenant because marriage is a covenant that in sickness and in health, in good times and bad times, there will be a loyal steadfast love.

So you and I, we, we, we can make God smile today. We can give God delight in our lives. As our text says, that God takes pleasure in those who hope in His, he his steadfast love that we hope in God's promise of unconditionally, always being there for us, being faithful to us, in loyal love, in steadfast love. That is the foundation of our hope today, that no matter our circumstances, no matter our weaknesses, our failings that God has pledged eternal faithfulness to us. We can't lose as this psalm. Psalm 147 says, God heals the brokenhearted. He binds up the wounds. He lifts up the down trodden. God is on our side. Trust in that today. Believe in that and God will take pleasure in you.

You will make God smile at your life. And that tells us how important hope is for the future that are having hope in God. It gives God pleasure with hope and mind. I close out with the prayer of the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 15 verse 13. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit that is God's will for you today. And so I pray it for you and for me.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time