

December 15, 2023

Hope
[Lamentations 3:21, 22a, 24](#)

Yet there is one ray of hope: His compassion never ends. My soul claims the Lord as my inheritance; therefore I will hope in him.

HOPE. We all hope for something. I imagine as Mary waited for the birth of the Messiah, she hoped, as all pregnant women do, for a healthy baby.

Sick people hope to be well.
Those out of work hope for a job.
Hungry people hope for food.
Homeless people hope for a home.
Children in orphanages hope for parents.
Children hope for presents at Christmas.
We all hope and pray for peace in the world.

And the list goes on....

I think back several years when my sister Cindy was diagnosed with MDS, cancer of the bone marrow. I prayed and hoped she would be healed by modern medicine. It wasn't to be.

As I sat by her hospital bed in August this year, seeing how sick and suffering she was, my prayers turned to God for His mercy and comfort for her last days. I knew the band of angels would be coming for her soon to take her to her heavenly home, where her husband Paul, who passed away on January 18, 2023, would be waiting for her.

She was a generous spirit, a woman of faith right to the end that came during the night of August 30th. Throughout her illness, she remained hopeful of at least feeling better. At the end, all she wanted was to go to her home of 50 years, surrounded by all the things that told the story of hers and Paul's life together.

The hymn, "Come and Find the Quiet Center" in *The Faith We Sing*, page 2128, speaks to me in a powerful and hopeful way.

"Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the flame where we are freed: Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be." (Words: Shirley Erena Murray, Music: Attr. to B. F. White)

All our hope lies with Jesus, for without Him, there is no hope.

Prayer: *Precious Lord, let me live a life of hopefulness. When my earthly life ends, may I dwell with you in my eternal home. Amen*

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