

Blessed Are Those Who Have Hope

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” 1 Peter 1:3

Even on Good Friday when we devote a day to remember, reflect and dig deeper into the death of Christ, there is still great joy, it might be small and not very apparent, but it's there just the same. For not even on Good Friday can we deny the Resurrection. We know how the story ends, we know that on the third day, Easter Sunday, he will rise from the dead.

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me...” Psalm 23:4

Ever wonder why such a solemn day is called “Good”? Because God died for us. Do we fully understand this, what God did for us that day? He died for us, He suffered for us. Sometimes it may feel as though God is distant and far away. At time we tend to blame God for the hurt and suffering in this world; but remember God died for us, he suffered and endured injustice so that no matter what we go through in this life, we are guaranteed life eternal.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...” John 3:16

Even when we experience great sadness and pain in our lives, we can't deny that our basic human instinct encourages us to feel some form of joy. It's written in our souls, the joy of the Resurrection. This is how many who don't even know of Jesus can experience and recognize true joy. Even when we feel weak, afraid, sad, lost, angry and so on... there is still an element of joy.

**“They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles' wings...”
Isaiah 41:31**

With suffering, no matter how big or small, God makes all things new. Somehow he takes even the greatest tragedy and the most extreme suffering and he is able to bring about joy from it. It may not always be easy to see, in fact most times it's not invisible at all, but it's there alright. The one who suffered death for our sins, brought joy on the third day. And he will bring joy to you as well.

Compassionate Creator,

Rain down upon my sorrow the spirit of hope and renew my strength in the promise of my resurrection to eternal life. Jesus, you remind me that dying to one's sins is never easy and many times very painful, but through that pain I know there is hope in overcoming sin, pain, sadness and all suffering.

You died so that I might live. Help me to live in our Father's love and not in the cancer of this world. Teach through the wisdom of your Spirit, and enable me with your grace to live in the presence of the Resurrection even in the darkest moments of my life.

Amen

Blessed are those who hope and pray in the name of the Lord...

Blessed are those who love in the name of the Lord...

Blessed are those who live in the just ways of the Lord...