

The Helmet: the hope of salvation



But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.
—1 Thessalonians 5:8

When one thinks of hope, the idea of expectation may surface. A child, who earnestly hopes for a bicycle on Christmas morning, dashes into the room where the presents are carefully laid out, is expecting to see it. He has faith that it will be there because he made the request long before December to someone who always keeps promises. As his eyes survey the room, there it sits in the corner with its big bow like he remembered it looked in the store. The sun would find great difficulty competing with the joy that has filled this youngster. What he has earnestly hoped for from the beginning is now realized. Hope has given way to sight.

Let's stop for a minute for some reflection. The last word in the previous paragraph is sight. But before sight, there is the word hope. Before the word hope, there is the word faith. The order is faith, hope and sight. But why is this order? Let us consider, first of all, the term **faith** from a bible perspective.

- *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17).*
- *God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? (Numbers 23:19)*
- *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)*

The primary material from which our helmet is made is faith—strong faith, tested faith. Without this, our helmet is useless.

What can be said of **hope**? What produces it? How can we acquire it? Be mindful of this truth, dear reader—one's hope is only as strong as one's faith. One's expectation is only as strong as one's belief. Having said this-- how is the strength of faith advanced so that the properties of hope will be strengthened? Paul, in his writing to the Romans, had something to say about this process.

Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance.

⁴ *And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of ^[e]character (approved faith and ^[d]tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] ^[e]joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation.*

⁵ *Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us.
(Romans 5:3-5, Amplified)*

I would like to add one more scripture for you to consider as you think about the helmet and hope of salvation. Listen intently to Paul's words in Romans 8:23-25.

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. NIV.

²³ *And not only the creation, but we ourselves too, who have and enjoy the firstfruits of the [Holy] Spirit [a foretaste of the blissful things to come] groan inwardly as we wait for the redemption of our bodies [from sensuality and the grave, which will reveal] our adoption (our manifestation as God's sons).*

²⁴ *For in [this] hope we were saved. But hope [the object of] which is seen is not hope. For how can one hope for what he already sees?*

²⁵ *But if we hope for what is still unseen by us, we wait for it with patience and composure. (Amplified)*

I conclude by presenting the word “unflappable.” The word means ***having or showing calmness in a crisis***. Think of the flag in the presence of a strong wind remaining unaffected—composed. The helmet keeps us composed in crisis. We know that whatever happens cannot alter the promises of God or their being given to us if we remain true to the One who promised.

God bless!