



Rex Williams <bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com>

Hope for a Better World

Rex Williams <noreply@churchofjesuschrist.org>
Reply-To: bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com
To: bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com

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Hello my friend,

How has your week been? Well, no matter what your past has been, your future is perfect.

Or it can be.

And that means you can have hope. There is always hope.

I've probably mentioned this before, but this concept is so important in today's world. With the world 'in commotion' as prophesied, we can still have rest, if we turn to the one who is the true source of rest.

The words of Mormon, shared by his son Moroni, talk about the rest we can obtain with hope.

"Wherefore, I would speak unto you that are of the church, that are the peaceable followers of Christ, and that have obtained a sufficient hope by which ye can enter into the rest of the Lord, from this time henceforth until ye shall rest with him in heaven. "(Moroni 7:3)

What is 'sufficient hope' and have you obtained it?

Sufficient enough to have faith. And that means you act in a way that is aligned with what you believe. And you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior.

"And again, my beloved brethren, I would speak unto you concerning hope. How is it that ye can attain unto faith, save ye shall have hope? (Moroni 7:40)

You need to start with hope.

"And what is it that ye shall hope for? Behold I say unto you that ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal, and this because of your faith in him according to the promise." (Moroni 7:41)

The atonement of Christ makes your past insignificant and your future perfect, at least the mistakes you've made in the past. He saves us. That's why we use that sacred name of 'Savior'.

"though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

'And the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal' means this earthly life is temporary. We are on a much longer and glorious journey. Life on earth is only a small part. This gives us hope to have faith.

"Wherefore, if a man have faith he must needs have hope; for without faith there cannot be any hope." (Moroni 7:42)

Hope and faith go together. Because we believe in the power of Christ's atonement we always have something to look forward to. Life eternal and the 'rest' of the Lord. This is the 'better world' that Ether talks about, which can be an anchor for your faith:

"Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God." (Ether 12:4)

When you have hope, you are always abounding in good works. And that gives hope to others. We are a church of hope, a community of people who look forward to the future because of our faith in Christ and his plan.

I know it doesn't seem like it, or maybe we just don't like it, but everything is going according to His plan. And from our limited perspective, that seems awful for some people, maybe even you. But just because you can't see or understand the reasons why, doesn't mean they don't exist. This is why faith and hope are so important.

"And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith.

For it was by faith that Christ showed himself unto our fathers, after he had risen from the dead; and he showed not himself unto them until after they had faith in him; wherefore, it must needs be that some had faith in him, for he showed himself not unto the world.

But because of the faith of men he has shown himself unto the world, and glorified the name of the Father, and prepared a way that thereby others might be partakers of the heavenly gift, that they might hope for those things which they have not seen.

Wherefore, ye may also have hope, and be partakers of the gift, if ye will but have faith." (Ether 12:6-9)

Be a partaker of the gift. Have hope and faith in Jesus Christ.

I testify that you can, because He lives. I know this because of spiritual communication. Even though I haven't seen Him, my eternal spirit receives truth from the Spirit of God, and that is sufficient. I receive it when I pray, when I hear the testimonies of living prophets, and when I read them in the scriptures.

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4)

I hope you can have hope. It's possible and available to you. It's part of God's plan for you. There is 'rest in the Lord' that you can obtain with hope.

We are here to help you. We are the church of Jesus Christ, the church of hope.

"Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and for ever." (Psalm 131:3)

Have hope, and take care,

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- Thank you to all those who helped with organizing or doing anything to help our Penny Creek Ward Bingo Night happen with huge success. That includes attending! Fun was had by all.
- I'm sad to announce that another beloved ward member has passed away, Brother George Kohlert. His funeral service will be this Friday, May 6th at 12:00 noon in our Penny Creek building. All are invited to attend to celebrate his life and hear testimonies of the Savior and His plan.
- Also, remember that Brother Robert Van Hover's memorial service will be held on May 14th, 1:00 pm at our Penny Creek building. Another opportunity to pay our respects and remember the power of Christ's resurrection.

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.