LITTLE MISS HOPE



So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13

Faith, Hope and Love.

The poet Charles Peguy portrays them as three sisters who are always together.

Love is the oldest. She has been around since time began, watching over Faith and Hope, since they came on the scene.

Faith is always there to help her sisters as problems come up and needs arise.

Hope is a little child who tags along behind.

But don't be fooled.

Little Miss Hope is the one who keeps her sisters going.

She sustains them with her joyful smile and her cheerful voice.

She greets each new day with joy.

Without Hope, Faith and Love would wither away.

Yes, the Spirit inspires us with faith.

Yes, the Spirit causes God's love to be shed abroad in our hearts.

But without the Spirit's gift of hope, where would we be?

Little Miss Hope keeps us on our toes.

Little Miss Hope is the one who sustains our faith and our love.



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15

Hope sees beyond this darkness to the coming glory.

The present hour is uncertain.

Nature is staggering.

Nations are in turmoil.

Our Lord tells us to look beyond this darkness to the coming Kingdom. He gives us the Spirit as a foretaste of the coming glory and commands us to keep walking in the Spirit's light.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8

Hope anchors its heart in each promise of the Lord Jesus.

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Matthew 26

Every time we drink of this cup we remember the Lord's promise to drink it with us in the Father's Kingdom.

Every time we drink this cup we proclaim his death until he comes.

Our hearts are anchored in the glory to come, sustained by a hope which is new every morning.

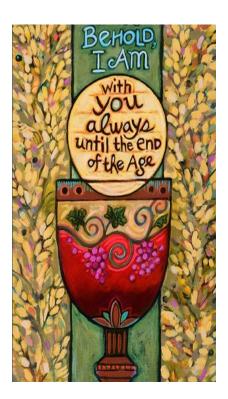
"I will not leave you desolate.

I will come to you.

A little while, and the world will see me no more. But you will see me.

And because I live, you will live also."

John 14



Hope puts its hand to the plow and never looks back.

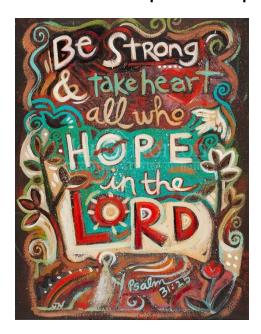
After many years as an apostle, Paul keeps pressing on in hope.

He knows that there is more ahead that he cannot see. And he goes for it!

.....That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Never underestimate the power of Hope!



Let little Miss Hope show you the way, as she follows her Lord without fear.

Prayer: Lord, may your Spirit fill us with hope and lead us out of despair and fear. May hope cause us to see beyond the darkness. May hope fill us with a sense of joy and peace, no matter what is happening in the world, no matter what we personally face. May we keep our eyes on you and trust and hope in your promises to us. And yes, Lord, may we be courageous, may we take heart and be so hopeful in you that we continue to press towards the prize you call us to. Amen.

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