

There is Hope in the Valley

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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At times, we go through the valleys (low places) in life and most of the time, we don't seem to find hope there. Our stay in the dark valley may linger, but we are assured that there is hope. We have to hope & wait for the appointed time because His promise will surely happen.

Two Things that will give us Hope in the Valley

1. **Remember the goodness and the faithfulness of God.** If He had been faithful in the past, He would still remain faithful.
2. **Embrace what He is doing.** Most of the time, we reject what God is doing in our life, especially when we are hurting. We have to believe that God is still good, though life is not. If we wait, good things will come out of the valley.

No matter how unfortunate events are, we have to rejoice in the Lord, our Savior (Habakkuk 3:16-18). Indeed, we are reminded to consider it pure joy when we are experiencing different kinds of trials (James 1:2).

While we are waiting for God, we have to praise Him with "shigionoth" like what the prophet Habakkuk did in the Bible while waiting for God's answer to his prayer amid his disappointment.

Shigionoth is the praise before anything else happens. It is worshiping God even before He gives us what we want to see. Sometimes, it is in the most enthusiastic "praise before" the provision, the answer to our prayer, and the healing that follows. It is praise based on faith. It is praising God not for what He is going to do or what he has done, but for who He is.

Our situation or circumstances may change, but our God does not change; and that our praise for Him should not change. There is no half-hearted

praise to God. It is always shigionoth – always in full (body, spirit, and soul). Declaring the goodness of God despite the bad news, we are going to rejoice and praise. It is like wrestling with God – questioning, YET praising God.

Our God wants us to enjoy His presence on the mountain top and also wants us to know Him intimately and learn to trust Him in the valleys low. God will allow us to go to a place that is so low so that there is nowhere else to look but up.

He also allows us to go through complaining, wondering, and confusion. He allows us to go through the waiting process so that we can learn the kind of faith that hopes even in the lowest place.

Our God is alive; He controls EVERYTHING in our life. We can be assured that God is always doing what is best for us. The plan of God for us is to give us hope, and He is doing everything for our good.

Reflection:

Are you in your low valley now? Give God a shigionoth.

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