

GOD'S MESSAGE OF HOPE AND LOVE

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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The Bible accounts hope as confident expectations rooted in the Lord's promises. Hope is not something Christ gives; it is what He is. He loves us as we are, but He never leaves us stagnant. He empowers us with hope, based on His promises that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Key points about rekindling the spirit with the passion of moving on:

1. Faithfulness to our mission.

God's faithfulness made us faithful and His love made us loving. Let us open our hearts again, to increase our capacity to receive grace from the faithfulness of God.

2. The mystery of nothingness.

The ashes imposed on us on Ash Wednesday remind us that we are dust and to dust we shall return, but, we are ashes with God's breath, a call to redefine ourselves in nothingness. It is a call by the Lord to rekindle the heart that was in great pain, demotivated for so long: living in fear, helplessness, and weakness.

3. There is power in weakness and nothingness.

God needs nothingness to create and we are created out of nothing. In nothingness, in being nothing, we become everything.

4. We are defined by the goodness of the Lord.

God is always faithful from the beginning, to the present and to the end. It is His goodness that never fails.

5. God promised He will always be with us forever.

God did not come to remove suffering, neither did He explain why there is suffering. However, He is present in moments of laughter and tears, in sadness and in joys, in life and in death. Therefore, we should not be afraid. We should

move on, transcend, and face the risk, for God will always be with us.

6. The mystery of letting go.

The discipline of Lent consists of constant prayer and reading of God's word, fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, abstaining from meat on Fridays, and engaging in works of mercy. Fasting is not just food. It is about the mystery of letting go those we lost during the pandemic: money, power, titles, family and friends. Hence, we are called to rekindle the passion, to rediscover our power, and to let go of our losses, for there are blessings amidst poverty and suffering.

CONCLUSION:

We receive lasting hope when Christ lives in us. This quality of hope makes us resilient, bold, and confident.

Because Christ never give up on us, we can endure without giving up.

REFLECTION:

1. What are those things that you find so difficult to let go?
2. During the Pandemic, how were you affected physically, emotionally and spiritually?
3. How did you accept your daily trials for the love of God?

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