

BETTER THINGS AHEAD!

The author of Hebrews wrote this letter to encourage a group of people who were going through a very difficult time.

Hebrews 6:9-12

These believers were suffering under severe persecution; their faith was being shaken. Their hope was diminishing and amid their troubles they couldn't see anything good ahead of them, they were up against some very difficult odds.

This letter was especially written to Jews who had become Christians, and as a result they encountered persecution.

In some measure, all of us have experienced rejection at some point in our lives because of our faith in Jesus.

Things have also been shifting rapidly in our world and opposition to Christianity is on the rise. We are living in the last days, and more than ever we need to look to the Bible for wisdom and guidance.

Look at what the apostle Paul wrote more than two thousand years ago about the days that we are living now.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Isaiah 5:20

Psalms 14:1

Since our world is getting more and more chaotic, **can we expect better things to come in our future?**

If you have Jesus in your heart, you can expect better things in your future.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

I would like to share with you a few points on how to look to the future with the expectation of better things to come, the things that accompany our salvation.

First point is:

1. BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SALVATION.

Salvation and eternal life are God's greatest gifts to humankind. When you keep an attitude of gratitude and you remember the goodness of God towards you, your heart will be filled with hope and joy for the future.

Hebrews 9:11-12

11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

The salvation of our souls is so precious. Christ is the High Priest of the good things to come.

2. THE AFFLICTIONS AND CHALLENGES THAT WE GO THROUGH IN THIS LIFE ARE ONLY MOMENTARY.

When we know that the difficulties and challenges that we go through in life are for a short moment, it gives us hope and strength for each day.

2 Corinthians 4:17

Romans 8:18

Hebrews 10: 34

In this life, if you want to live with hope and expectation that better things will come to you, you also need to:

3. LIVE BY FAITH

Habakkuk 2:4

Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by faith.

Jesus said in Mark 11:22

Have faith in God.

When we get to Heaven we will no longer need to live by faith. We need to live by faith now. We don't see God, but we believe and trust in Him.

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

God has given you and me a measure of faith and we need to believe that this is true. We have faith, we just need to activate that faith which God has given us, and grow in our faith towards Him.

Why should I believe for better things to come?

- a) We have a better covenant with God established on better promises.**

Hebrews 8:6

6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

God's promises are part of the 'better things' that accompany our salvation, and they are not just about Heaven and eternity.

Matthew 6:25-34

Many of God's promises to us include all aspects of our life and we can take hold of them by faith. God is our Father, our provider, our Healer, our Shepherd, our Protector, our Deliverer.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6

Mark 11:22

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.

4. LET THE HOLY SPIRIT CONTINUE TO WORK IN YOUR LIFE.

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

I am going to share with you three things that I would like to see improvement in my own life:

a) I would like to see more of the fruit of the Spirit in operation in my life.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

b) I would like to grow in my relationship with the Lord. I want to know more of God.

There are some people in the Bible who I really admire when it comes to their relationship with God. One of them is Moses, the other one is Paul. I want to follow their example.

Moses said:

Exodus 33:13

Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."

Paul wrote:

Philippians 3:10

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

c) I would like to serve God better.

John 12:26

1 Corinthians 15:58

Let's pray, believe, and expect "better things" to happen in our personal lives and for our Church, and the expansion of God's kingdom in our community.