

**I know that my Redeemer lives - Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014**

**“As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,  
And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.  
“Even after my skin is destroyed,  
Yet from my flesh I shall see God;  
Whom I myself shall behold,  
And whom my eyes will see and not another.  
My heart faints within me!**

**Job 19:25-27**

Beloved in The Lord,

Blessed is the person who can say along with Job: “I know that my Redeemer lives!”

This confession comes from faith in God’s Word. This knowledge brings great peace and joy to one’s heart even in the midst of very difficult circumstances. Knowledge that Jesus lives gives hope to everyday and even takes the sting out of death itself.

Paul wrote very similar words in his letter to the Corinthians:

***“For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life” (2 Cor.5:1-4).***

Do you see the similarity? Words written so long apart, in a totally different era, express the same truths. Job said: **“I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. “Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God;”**

Paul wrote that we know that when the tent of our body is taken down we have a house from God.

Job wrote that his heart yearns to see God, it faints within him. He is longing for the day when he will stand before God.

Paul wrote that we groan longing to be clothed with our dwelling from Heaven.

The believer has a deep longing in his or her heart to see God, to be with Him in Heaven. The believer knows that this is not our real home, that this life is not everything. Paul spells this out in his letter to the Philippians:

***“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the***

***body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself” (Phil.3:20-21).***

In Hebrews we read: ***“For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come” (Heb.13:14).***

You see, life does not end with death. Life does not cease to be after we leave this world. God has created us to live forever with Him. Jesus came into the world, in human flesh, He suffered and died on the cross, bearing our sins, He poured out His blood as payment for our sin debt in full. He did this so that we could spend eternity with Him and The Father in Glory.

Jesus resurrection from the dead guarantees our resurrection. Job said: ***“I know that my Redeemer lives.”*** This was a prophetic statement that looked forward. We now live in a period where we look back on Easter morning. Even though we have a clear witness, a clear testimony in Scripture, there are many who cannot say: “I know that my Redeemer lives.” Why? Simply because they do not submit to God in faith. It is only when we come to God in faith and surrender all to Him, that we can say I know; I believe beyond the shadow of a doubt.

We read in 1 Peter:

***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls” (1.Peter 1:3-9).***

You see the key is faith. Faith simply says “God said it, I believe it and that settles it.” When we trust in God’s Word, when we trust in Him, then we have this living hope in our hearts. That is why I often remind you of these words Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome:

***“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:1-2).***

We need to continually present ourselves to God in faith. As we do, we find that our understanding of Him, our understanding of His Word grows. As this happens we no longer say I hope, I think, but we say I know! We have this assurance that confesses: **“I know that my Redeemer lives And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.**

**“Even after my skin is destroyed,  
Yet from my flesh I shall see God;  
Whom I myself shall behold,  
And whom my eyes will see and not another.”**

Faith has many powerful enemies and one of them is reason – the thoughts that come into our mind. We need to learn to submit our reason our thoughts to God’s Word in faith. It is a battle. Paul writes:

***“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,” (2.Cor.10:3-6a).***

Paul is clearly teaching us that we need to take control of our thoughts. We need to destroy all sinful and doubtful speculation that rises up against the truth of God’s Word. Satan works hard to sow a seed of doubt in our mind. If he succeeds he then goes on to water it so that it sprouts and grows. His aim is to destroy our faith.

This is why we must arm ourselves with God’s Word. We need to learn how to repel doubt and every thought that is contrary to God’s Word. We need to repel every lie of the devil. We need to understand that every thought that is contrary to God’s Word is poisonous. Rising up against God’s Word is prideful, thinking that you know better than God. Such self loftiness leads to a quick fall, because God hates pride. Nothing will distance us from God quicker than pride.

Does this mean that we need to switch off our minds if we are to live by faith? Not at all. Faith calls us to submit our thoughts to God’s Word and obey Him. When we do, God expands our thinking and we actually become wiser and smarter because we have the truth revealed to us. Fear of The Lord, is the beginning of wisdom. A child who believes in God and His Word is smarter than an unbelieving professor.

You see absolutely everything hinges on faith. When you have faith, then you can say I know. Faith is like a muscle, it needs to be exercised regularly. If you do not exercise muscles, they decline and become weak. If you do not exercise your faith, it becomes weak, and you begin to doubt and fear and you become weak and defenseless. You lose sight of the goal, and your love and joy and peace disappear. Life overwhelms you.

In order for this not to happen we need to be daily exercising with God’s Word. We need to read it, meditate upon it, study it, pray it and live it. We need to draw from it’s truths.

The more we do, the stronger our faith will become, and with that our witness and testimony will grow.

We have considered the effect of our testimony a fair bit lately. If we can show people that we do not fear neither life nor death because we trust in God, in Jesus and His Word, then we have a good testimony.

So many people live in fear of both life and death. They live downcast and depressed. They are seeking hope and comfort and are looking for meaning in life. They are looking for security in a crazy world.

If we are Christians we have the answer for them. We need to humbly share Christ with them through our words and actions, our very lives. We need to demonstrate that we know the one who has the answer and make Him known to them and encourage them to trust in Him.

We serve a living God, a living King. He lives in our hearts if we are His. This should be reflected in our life. May we be serious about our faith, our testimony. May we come to our Lord Jesus Christ today and may we surrender all to Him.

May we offer ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice, and from now on may our testimony in word and deed be: "I know that my Redeemer lives!"

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.