

## CHAPTER 18: A FERVENT PRAYER

Jesus never said, “I am the hope.” He did say, however, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” These are tangible things. Hang onto them. Hang onto Jesus.

Everyone wants hope. Hope is wishing for something better. The best hope is to trust in the Lord, and He will answer. He hears us. We don’t need to be in a crowd with everyone praying the same thing. This community type of praying makes us feel better, and we are confident that God can’t help but listen, because we are many, we are loud. I think it must be like voting: if more people vote for a candidate, then their hopes are realized.

The Scripture says, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16) Prayers don’t get answered if there is a majority. Key word: a righteous man; not a bunch of them.

How can we have hope? Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened.”

How do we ask? Ask the Lord. He hears. Seek his answer. Keep looking for it. Knock on that closed door. Interesting: to open a door, one must do it. These are not the ultimate answers for having hope. These are just thoughts about following instructions. What will it cost you? Jesus did not give us useless commands. He, who gave up his life for us and then on the third day, took up his life again at his resurrection, did exactly what he said he would do. Would he now give us useless commands? I think not. These thoughts are based on Matthew 7:7, Luke 11:9, James 1:5 and John 10:18. No one killed Jesus.

“Greater love has no man than this: that a man **lay down his life for his friends.**” **John 15:3.** When a person lays down something, that person does it with his own hands. No one could stop him from rising from the tomb, and no one can stop him from listening to us. He said no one will be able to pluck us out of his hands.

Interesting: On the first day of Creation God created light. Jesus said he is the light of the world. On the third day of Creation God created the plants, and those plants could multiply by their own seeds. On the third day Jesus rose from the dead. He said, “I am the way the truth and the life.” He is life. New life. He said, “No man comes to the Father but by me.” He said, “comes”. He gives us new life. Eternal life. He is there already. If we come by him, we will go to the Father.

He is the way.

Don’t accept any other route. The way is Jesus.