



Page I

**APRIL 2016**  
**THE FRIEND OF FAITH**

Greetings my beloved brethren!

We pray this edition of our Living Logos newsletter finds you well- with nothing missing and nothing broken- as our Lord God has promised us in His name, Jehovah Shalom.

We had a wonderful Resurrection Sunday at High Point Church recently! The Lord gave me a great message- entitled "The Story of Redemption."

You know, there are a lot of words we hear in church, that while we might be able to quote them, I fear that we do not truly understand what they all mean. We use these biblical words like "salvation, sanctification, forgiveness, justification etc." but most believers do not see their true meaning. And this is how it is with "redemption."

Well, there are a couple of words that are used to define the words "redeem or redemption"- both of which are used to describe the payment of a price to purchase someone from slavery or the ransom paid to set free a slave who is in bondage. Terms that are often used in the various descriptions of these words are "to buy back, to purchase, and to release." In one of the words used for "redemption" we even see the word "marketplace" contained in it.

Saints, we need to not only understand what "redemption" means but what we are redeemed from- for if we come to see that the price was paid to free us for certain things, we will begin to resist the devil and the curse contained on this earth. Amen!?!

Well, the "Easter message" was the beginning of a series that I began called "Redeemed from the Curse of the Law." Oh, and saints it has been good!

So let me remind you that you can go to [www.highpointmacon.com](http://www.highpointmacon.com) and listen to any of our messages online- following us here in Macon and we continue in the truths of God's Word that make us free in Christ! Amen!

On that note, I have made mention over the past couple of months about Living Logos Ministries' television program which would soon be starting here in the Middle Georgia region. Well, the programs began airing in the beginning of March, and I have already received calls from viewers. Praise God!

If you live in this area, you can catch our program- The Living Word- on Friday afternoons at 2 PM. Also, we have a bonus run time on Sunday evenings at 6:30 PM. So if you are interested, check us out on channel 7, the CTN network on Cox Cable.

Also, as I mentioned a couple of months ago, another benefit of recording these programs is that we can saturate social media with them as well!

Page II

So, guess what? If you do not live in Middle Georgia or do not have Cox Cable, you can still watch these programs! All you have to do is visit our website at [www.treydickerson.com](http://www.treydickerson.com) and click on the “media” tab, and you can watch every program on demand! Also, you can go to YouTube and watch even more teachings we have posted on there! Make sure you subscribe to our YouTube channel while you are there as well!

Saints, I cannot fully convey to you just how good these video programs look! I have had those who have “been there and done that” look at them and they were thoroughly impressed at the sound and video quality! God is blessing our ministry and opening up doors of utterance for us! All glory to God!

Now, as for this month’s teaching, I want us to talk about something that the Lord used to establish me very early on in my Christian walk- the subject of *faith*. And I want us to study this subject by looking at some things in the life of the Apostle of faith himself.

Now if you have spent much time gleaning from the teachings of Living Logos Ministries, you will have heard me make reference to the trials and tribulations that the Apostle Paul endured. Paul is such a tremendous example of what Christianity is supposed to look like, not because of what he went through, but because of how he went through it. Let me explain...

Although the Apostle Paul went through such intense afflictions and persecution, he fought the good fight of faith and finished his race with joy. And how did he do this? Well, as we saw last month, the Apostle Paul was the professor of Perspective 101. You will be hard pressed to find another believer that had the focus and vision that our beloved Apostle Paul possessed.

### **FAITH KNOWS**

Now let’s go over to Paul’s Epistle to the Philippians where we learn more about this incredible faith and hope that Paul possessed.

In Philippians 1:19-20, he says, “For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.”

Now, mind you, Paul was in prison in Rome when he wrote this. So this was the Apostle Paul making a declaration of his faith and hope in God- saying in verse 19 that he knew that his current situation would “turn out” for his deliverance.

Now this kind of a bold proclamation is foreign to so many Christians, and why? Most do not have this kind of confidence and boldness due to the fact that they do not know their God. You see, in one place, Paul said, “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know *whom* I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day”

Page III

(2 Timothy 1:12). Notice that Paul said that he knew whom he believed, not what he believed. There is a big difference.

You see, our faith is only as strong as the object of our faith. Let me say it this way: **It is not how great your faith is; it is how much your faith is in a Great God!** And because Paul knew His God, it caused him to be absolutely persuaded that He would keep His promises to Him! Amen!

Friends, faith knows while everything else speculates, wonders, and wishes. And there are countless Christians out there who have this “you never know” mentality about God- saying that you never know what God is going to do. This is not what you see in the life of the Apostle of faith. Paul knew His God and was persuaded of what His God would do. Amen!

### **CHOOSE LIFE**

You see, most Christians have a major hole in their theology, and it is this: They believe that God has the complete control of everything that happens in our lives. Therefore, when someone has died from some tragedy that was God’s will. When someone else has suffered for years with an illness that must be God’s will.

Saints, I can affirmatively tell you that this mainstream belief amongst Christendom is absolutely false. No, God is not picking who experiences life and blessings and then who experiences death and cursing. In fact, the Scriptures teach us that God gave these options to His chosen people in Deuteronomy 30:19.

So who is the one choosing life or death, blessing or cursing? It’s us, not God! You see, the Lord has given us countless promises of life and blessing in the Scriptures such as He would satisfy us with long life and show us His salvation when we dwell in His secret place (Psalm 91:1&16). So, yes, we do know God’s will concerning how long we remain in this tent.

We actually see this in just a few verses in Philippians chapter one when Paul talks about how he was going to choose to live through this particular imprisonment (1:22&25). Now you would have thought that the decision as to whether he would die in this Roman prison would have been up to God or the Caesar, but no, Paul said that this decision was his. Amen!

And, saints, you can choose life too! You are not subject to that sickness and disease! You are not subject to any curse on this earth! No, you have a multitude of exceedingly great and precious promises that, if you will just latch a hold of them like a bulldog and boldly declare them in the face of adversity, you will partake of His divine nature! Amen!

And make no mistake about it, this bold and confident faith that Paul had was a major ingredient to the joy he possessed. Why? Because strong and consistent faith will always yield strong and consistent joy! Amen!

## THE JOY OF FAITH

You see, our joy level is like the gauge that reveals the amount of faith that is in our heart. True faith will produce true joy. There is no other way around it. If one is moping around, depressed and discouraged about their situation, then we can know that they are not in faith- because if you are in faith, believing that what God has promised, He is willing and able to perform, you will not be having a pity party. Paul called this, at the end of Philippians 1:25, “the joy of faith.” So always remember, having a heart full of faith will be indicated by our level of joy.

So, yes, the Apostle Paul obviously had his tank full of faith which produced joy- for he knew that God was going to work this out for his good and deliver him from this imprisonment. He knew this because he knew the power of prayer and because he knew the ministry of the Holy Spirit (verse 19), and it was because he knew these truths that he had an earnest expectation and hope that in nothing he would be ashamed (verse 20)! Amen!

Again, faith simply *knows* and everything else just *thinks*. True faith is so persuaded that what God has promised He is also able to perform that it goes beyond just “thinking or hoping” God will provide; living faith knows what God will do because, number one, it is so familiar with His character that it knows what He is going to do, and, number two, because it knows His Word and knows that all of His promises are “Yes and Amen.”

## FAITH’S COMPANION

But, my friends, faith has a partner! I said, faith has a companion- and her name is *hope*!

Now this hope is not what we commonly think she is. Hope is not wishful thinking or even having an optimistic outlook. No, when the Bible speaks of hope, it is speaking of possessing a confident expectation of something happening in the future!

You see, we use the word hope in a different way than the Word of God uses it. For example, if someone comes for prayer to be healed and I ask them if they believe that they will be healed when I pray for them; if they respond with something like- “I sure hope so,” then that is *not* what the Bible speaks of when it refers to hope.

No, when the Bible talks about hope, it is referring more to the expectation of something good happening, not wishing something good might happen. There is a big difference between both of those views of hope. One is confident that it will happen and the other would just like for it to happen.

So I say this to say that we need to adopt this new concept of hope in our hearts. We need to get into Bible hope- this state of expectation that those good and perfect gifts of our Heavenly Father and His goodness and mercy are indeed following us all the days of our life (see James 1:17 & Psalm 23:6). When we are operating in this true hope, we will then be confidently looking for the manifestation of those promises.

Page V

The reason that this is so important to understand is because you really do not have any more faith than you have hope. Now I know this might seem like a questionable statement, but if you look at Hebrews 11:1, which is our best biblical definition of faith, you will see that faith is the substance of things *hoped for*. So if faith is simply the substance of things we hope for, then what if we do not have this confident expectation? Then we have nothing for our faith to give substance to, right?

Yes, saints, hope is just as important for us to abound in as faith. They work together to produce the manifestation of the promise of God that we desire. So when we couple together our belief in God with our expectation of God, they work together to produce the will of God in our lives. Amen!

And as I have made mention of already, this hope will produce joy just like our faith produces joy. Why? It is because faith and hope work together- which gives birth to joy.

### **REJOICE IN HOPE**

We see this in Romans 15:13 when the Apostle Paul prays a simple prayer over this church saying, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Do you see here the relationship between hope and joy?

First of all, Paul refers to Him as the God of hope. This is who He is! He is the God of hope! Whenever you see a description given to God like this, know that this is a consistent and unchanging part of His nature. So, therefore, it should be a consistent and unchanging part of our nature as well.

But then Paul refers to how our God of hope fills us with all joy and peace in believing. Never forget: hope fills us with all joy just like faith does.

You see this principle is found throughout the New Testament- namely in Romans 12:12 where Paul said that we "rejoice in hope"- showing us that the fruit of having hope is true and genuine joy.

This should not be a foreign concept to us because have you ever noticed what your emotional state is when you know something good is on the horizon?

For example, say you work a 9 to 5 job and have the weekends off. What is the difference between your emotional make up on Friday as opposed to Monday? We say things like "TGIF (Thank God it's Friday!)" Why? It is because we have in clear view the "hope" of enjoying a couple of days off of work, right?

Well, let me take this to another level: How do you feel on that Friday before you are about to have a week's vacation? You are experiencing a little more joy then, aren't you? Amen! In fact, it might be different with you, but I actually have experienced more joy on that last day of work before that vacation than I did on any given day of the vacation itself. Why? It's because of the power that is in hope- the expectation of something good being just around the corner! Hallelujah!

Page VI

Friends, this living hope is a powerful thing!

But someone might say, "Yeah, but I don't have any vacation time left. Therefore, I have nothing to look forward to." Well, you need to get saved then because for every born again child of God, we have a hope of that Blessed Rest just over the horizon and will be fully realized when the Morning Star splits those eastern skies! Hallelujah!

And this is the hope that the Apostle Paul had burning in his heart which caused him to scoff at his current sufferings and even at the prospect of death itself. Amen!

Brothers and sisters, the Apostle Paul certainly had his tank full of faith! He knew His God and this caused him to know what His Heavenly Father's will was for his life! It also caused him to have true Bible hope- to be absolutely, positively expectant of what His Heavenly Father would do for him. And this faith, when married to this hope, will always give birth to joy! Amen!

So be encouraged today that you can know your God just like Paul did. Be encouraged to know that you can put all of your hope in His promises and know that what your Father has promised, He will perform in your life! God is just looking for a remnant- a few good men and women- who will take God at His Word and live a life fully trusting in His promises! To which I say today: "Lord, send me! Lord, send me!"

Until next month... Maranatha!

Victoriously,

