

May 18, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Isa. 35:4 *say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; Your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you. (NIV)*

Hope. When people lose this, they begin to diminish and lose their way. Isaiah is reminding us that we need to look to the LORD for our hope. When we are worried or don't know what we should do; we must turn to the LORD. **Ps. 62:5-8** *Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from Him. Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; He is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge. (NIV)*

Paul echoes this in **Rom. 15:13** *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (NIV)*

Isaiah tells those with fearful hearts, that have seemed to lose hope, to be strong and do not fear. The Hebrew word is **chizku** which means *to grow firm or strong, be strengthen, overcome and take hold of His strength*. This is a reminder to us all that in our own strength, we will surely fail and shrink away from any challenge that may come. This usually happens when we look to our own strength to face the struggles of life. We don't have what it takes to be able to do this on our own. Instead of living in fear, we can turn to the only One Who will come with vengeance and divine retribution to save us! He will not come sheepishly, but with His full power and might, because He loves His own. He cares for you. He will stand strong as our refuge and our strength.

Dear LORD, help us not to be fearful today, but instead to be hopeful. We find our hope in You and You alone. You are what we need. You are Who we need. You are our strength and our portion. LORD, we trust in You today. In Jesus Name, Amen