

## The Word of God Gives Us Hope

### Introduction

Hope shines brightest in the darkness. In this section the writer experiences both realities. He is afflicted. He is ridiculed by the proud. He is angry over the wicked. Nevertheless, he has hope. He is comforted and has been given life. The Word of God has been his song. Anchored in God's Word, he is unmoved and confident as he faces adversity. -L. Ogilvie

### 49. Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope.

- During the furnace of affliction, when **faith** has its lapses, the writer begins to pray, "Lord, *remember* . . ."
- Sometimes during a time of trouble it may seem that God has forgotten about us, but it is **impossible** for God to ever forget His promise.
- What is faith? It is **hope** in God's Word. The assurance of this faith is *the Word*.
- the Word of God has the **power** to sustain us during affliction.

### 50. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

- The Christian life is not free from affliction, but we can find **comfort** in our afflictions with God's Word.
- The words of well-meaning men are often empty and useless but God's Word is **always** living, relevant and effective.

### 51. The proud have had me greatly in derision: yet have I not declined from thy law.

- People who **refuse** to submit to God's Word will ridicule the Christian for trusting in God's Word. (2 Timothy 3:12)
- No matter how bad our persecution may become, we should **resolve** not to step away (declined) from God's Law.
- When we are in the battle for faith, we need to **remember** what God has done for us.

## 52. I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself.

- *I remember thy judgments of old* - It is good to have examples of God's dealings with his children laid up in our **memory**, so that our faith may be strengthened in the day of affliction. - D. Dickson
- When all else seems to fail, we can find comfort in **knowing** that an unchangeable God is over the affairs of His people.

## 53. Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law.

- There is horror in **knowing** and understanding the condition of those that are daily and hourly in danger of God's great wrath and eternal punishment!
- *Because of the wicked that forsake thy law* - David grieved, not because he was attacked; but because the law of God was forsaken; and he feared for those who *forsake thy law*, because they were **lost**.

## 54. Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.

- Like many Christians, David knew that he was not at **home** in this world, but a pilgrim through it, seeking a better country.
- Thanks to the wonderful Word of God, the pilgrim can **sing** in the *house of his pilgrimage*, or, as Knox put it, "in a land of exile." - BBC

## 55. I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law.

- The *name* of the Lord is his character, his **nature**, his attributes, his holiness, his wisdom, his goodness and truth. - J. Stephen.
- In the night - Our religion should not only be in public, but also in **private**.
- Sometimes the night time is the **best** time to be with God.

## 56. This I had, because I kept thy precepts.

- Christian comfort and joy is fully realized when we get **serious** about obeying our Heavenly Father.
- Obedience *to thy precepts*, brings comfort to the **soul** (inward comfort).

*Being born again,  
not of corruptible  
seed, but of  
incorruptible, by  
the word of God,  
which liveth and  
abideth for ever.*

**1 Peter 1:23**