

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

AGAINST ALL HOPE

Romans 4:18-19 "Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead."

Against all hope Abraham believed God's promise that He and Sarah would be blessed with the gift of a son. When Sarah heard God's promise, she laughed, realizing she was well beyond child bearing years. She heard the promise but took matters into her own hands and offered Abraham her servant Hagar to provide him with the much-desired son. On the other hand, Abraham believed and trusted God's promise.

Abraham realized that the promise of God was the key to fathering and Sarah giving birth to their biological son. Paul writes, ". . . he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead. . . and Sarah's womb was also dead." Knowing that he still believed and as Paul writes, his faith did not weaken.

You would think that living over many, many years with only God's promise, Abraham would have given up on God's promise. Do you ever become impatient with God? Do you read His promises in the Scriptures and after a time believe He will not keep them? Is Jesus serious when He promises to be with you always. . .? (Matthew 28:20) Should you place the things that burden your soul upon Jesus instead of worry about them? (Matthew 11:28-30) Will God truly forgive you the sin(s) you continue to commit. Surely, He will run out of patience and punish you for them? (Isaiah 1:18)

Against all hope God grants you a sure and certain hope of His daily presence, desire to receive and answer your prayers, and provide for your every need of body and soul. His love for you never ends. Out of His love and the faith He gives you in His Son Jesus, what would appear to be a hopeless future for you He promises you to pardon your sins, love you as His very own daughter or son and stands waiting with arms wide open to welcome you into His heavenly mansion.

Prayer: Against all hope, You dear Father through Your Son Jesus fill my heart with faith in Him and hope that will never be disappointed. Amen.

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain:

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain:

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne!
Refrain:
(LSB 575)