

*"The Lord is faithful
to all his promises and
loving toward all
he has made."*

Psalms 145:13

Hope for the *Hopeless*

*"These things have I spoken unto you,
that my joy might remain in you, and that
your joy might be full." John 15:11*

Living for God is not a bed of roses. Because we live in a sin-cursed world, bad things happen.

Jobs are lost.

There is conflict in relationships.

Marriages fall apart.

Loved ones die.

Sickness is a reality.

Dreams crumble.

Hopes get crushed.

All these things – and more – can leave a person feeling frustrated, angry, hopeless, and helpless – a myriad of emotions.

BUT, our Lord is greater than all of this. Jesus wants us to have the same joy He has. When His Spirit dwells within us – and we are surrendered to Him – He can fill our cistern (heart) to overflowing – overflowing all the “bad stuff” so that it does not bring us down. We can have peace and joy in the midst of the storms.

In Jeremiah 2:13, God said, “For my people have committed two evils; (1) they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and (2) hewed them out cisterns, *broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*”

Cisterns were wells dug into a low point of the limestone of villages and towns that lacked a natural water source. An elaborate “gutter” system channeled rainwater into the cistern. The sides were plastered to keep the water in and the contaminants out. Cracks in the plaster allowed precious water to leak out, posing the risk of the cistern running dry. Cracks also allowed pollutants to get into the water, making it unfit to drink. Either scenario caused great loss to the inhabitants of the village.

God used this analogy to help his people understand that they had lost their relationship with Him because of *two prominent sins*:

1. *They had neglected and rejected God* – the only One who could give them a truly fulfilling and purpose-filled life.
2. *They were trying to find purpose and pleasure in all the wrong places* – anything other than God.

As a result, their joy was depleted. They had lost their purpose and destiny as God’s special people.

A broken “spiritual” cistern will leave you dry, hopeless, joyless, and helpless. True “living water” can only be found in a *personal and devoted* relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the healer of broken relationships. He gives hope beyond death. He took the beatings for our healing. He can order the events of our lives so that all things can work together for our good (Romans 8:28).

Are you at wit’s end? Does it seem as if your life will never ever be right again? Then, examine your “spiritual cistern”. Mend the cracks. Clear the debris from your heart. Renew your relationship with God through His Precious Son, Jesus. Let the “living water” from Jesus flow fresh in your life again. Ask Him what He would have you do **ONE STEP AT A TIME** to begin getting your life in order.

After all, **He is the Only One who CAN do this.** You **CANNOT** do it alone.