

# BEING REFINED TO SHARE HOPE

PASTOR PARKIN YOUNG

**1** Peter 1:3-7 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The past month was a whirlwind for me as there were so many things that needed my attention. On top of juggling things at home and the family getting sick over the week, I can truly say that it was a challenging month. One of the things that took much of my attention and energy was sermon preparations. I always get nervous when I need to give a devotion or preach on a Sunday. It's one of the things that I continue to grapple with. In early July, I tried to plot out how I would balance my time, and I was so overwhelmed. I didn't even know how I would get through the month, and as the days unfolded, there were unexpected situations that arose unexpectedly. In one of the devotions I had this month, I read the first chapter of

1 Peter and we learn here how blessed we are because of the mercies of God. We are born again to a living hope, a hope that is not stagnant and inactive. This hope will be revealed at the right time according to God's timing, and because we have this hope, we can persevere knowing that all the struggles we go through are times of testing our faith. And the result of these tests would hopefully be found to result in the praise and glory of Jesus.

From this passage, I was reminded of two things about my challenges in life.

- Hope needs to be seen in my life.
- Hope needs to be shared in my life.

When I went to a basketball game in Ortigas last month, one of my teammates asked me how I was doing in my ministry here. I must admit, the first thought that came to mind was I'm having a hard time juggling everything. But I was reminded of how amidst all those things I needed to juggle, God still sustained me continually. And being reminded of that allowed me to share honestly that even if there are things that give me a hard time, I am blessed and at peace knowing this is where God called me to be. And, I was reminded that I have hope knowing that all these things would come to pass. I need to make sure that in every season of my life, the hope that I have should be seen clearly by people!

When I lived in Singapore, I had the privilege of serving in a church near our school that ministers to the domestic helper community. Every Saturday, they would gather all the domestic helpers to share the word and to have fellowship over food. One of the domestic helpers that I got to meet there was such an encouragement to me. Every Sunday on her day off, she would go to where all the domestic helpers are gathered and she just gave out food to the people she meets. When I asked her what motivates her to do it, she said it is because she experienced love and comfort from the people who helped her in church. She was able to find hope that things would indeed get better and that is the same thing she wants to share to those in need.

As believers who have experienced the same hope, we need to remember that we should make sure that people see this hope we have in our hearts, and we share that hope to those in need of it! How much more that people need that hope in these trying times that we all go through! So, as one church, I want to encourage you that we can indeed do these things together. Life will not become easy overnight, but it will get easier knowing we have a hope that is active and alive! Blessed Sunday everyone! ✱