

## ***SPRINKLED & WASHED***

*David Halbrook*

Notice what gives full assurance of faith in Hebrews 10:22, “let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

This “sprinkling” is the sprinkling of blood (Heb. 9:21-22). Israelite priests often sprinkled blood as directed by God’s law to Israel. The blood of the new covenant is Jesus’ blood which removes sin when sprinkled on our heart. That happens when, motivated by faith, our bodies are washed with water (baptism). Saul was told to “be baptized and wash away your sins.” When he did, Jesus washed him from sin (Acts 22:16; Rev. 1:5). Men who teach salvation before baptism actually teach salvation before Jesus’ blood! None who accept this teaching have the assurance of salvation.

Also, notice that God does not say our bodies should be sprinkled with water. Jesus’ blood is not sprinkled on our heart when men sprinkle water on our body. Baptism means immersion, so if your “baptism” involved sprinkling water, you have not been immersed into Christ and the stain of sin remains.

-- *Editor’s Note:* Occasionally, I take one Bible verse to help our readers understand the simplicity of Christ on the subject of baptism. Can you use our *Arkansas Weekly* article to help someone give this some thought? Yes, you can. Will you?

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

## ***ARE YOU LIVING IN HOPE?***

*Kyle Campbell*

“Hope” is one of the most precious and optimistic words that adorns the human language. Few things are more comforting in a hospital emergency room, following a tragic accident or illness of a loved one, than for the doctor to appear and say, “there is hope.” Moreover, when a loved one dies, to say, “he died in hope.”

Thinking about the subject of hope brings to mind three facts. First, there is a hopeless state (Ephesians 2:12; Romans 1:18-32; 6:23). Second, there is a way of hope (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Colossians 1:27; Titus 2:11-13). So surely all of us realize that to “die in hope” one must “live in hope.” Since the Bible amply demonstrates to us what it means to live in hope, let’s take note of some excellent examples of hope.

Job was a wonderful example of hope. He was a righteous man (Job 1:1, 5, 8). Though he was persecuted and tormented, Job retained his righteousness (Job 1:11-2:10). The reason why Job could do all this is because he lived in hope (Job 19:25-26). He knew that his redeemer lived and he stated that in his flesh he would see God.

Abraham was another astonishing example of hope. Hebrews 11:8-19 explains that Abraham had hope when it came to his departure from Ur of the Chaldees. He hoped for a better country. After God promised him a son and Isaac was born, God told Abraham to offer Isaac. Abraham was going to carry out the death of his only son because he had hope that God could raise him again from the dead. Hope carried him through the most uncertain days of his life.

Peter was a good example of hope. He was a man with a history of trouble (Matthew 14:22-31; 26:34, 58, 69-75). Yet, he was a man whose faith grew (Acts 4:18-20). The reason why all this happened was because he was a man who lived in and taught others to live in hope (1 Peter 1:3-9).

Paul is our final example of hope. In his early life, he was a persecutor of Christians (1 Timothy 1:13). As a Christian, he suffered much persecution himself (2 Corinthians 11:23-28). Here was a man who lived in hope (2 Timothy 1:8, 12; 2 Timothy 4:6-8). He could go through year after year of tireless, unceasing work for the Lord because he had a hope of what would come after this life.

Hope accomplishes much in our lives. First of all, it sustains and one can see this through the four examples cited above. Second, hope purifies us (1 John 3:1-3). Third, hope anchors us in heaven (Hebrews 6:18-19). Fourth, hope causes rejoicing (Romans 5:2). Fifth, hope inspires one to give reasons for that hope (1 Peter 3:15). Hope is desire plus expectation. Surely all desire to go to heaven; but, do you really expect to go? The only way in which you can expect to go to heaven (and have true hope), is through obeying the will of God!

*(www.lawofliberty.com/articles/christianliving.html)*

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## ***HOW CAN WE DEVELOP MORAL & SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME? PART 2***

- Based on an article by Ron Halbrook in *Guardian of Truth* XXXV, 11 (June 6, 1991):330-331

A. Personal and Individual Growth Must Come First. *(in last week's bulletin, DH)*

B. How does a man grow in leading his wife?

1. Prayer with wife (Eph. 5:28-31).
2. Bible reading and study with wife (1 Pet. 2:1-3; Eph. 5:23).
3. Treat wife in godly manner (show respect, affection, gratitude). 1 Peter 3:7.
4. Communicate with wife (Eph. 5:28-31; 1 Pet. 3:7).
5. Sexual faithfulness and purity (Heb. 13:4).
6. Other qualities are considered below under the family heading.

C. How does a man grow in leading his children?

1. Prayer with each child (Eph. 6:4).
2. Bible reading and study with children (1 Pet. 2:1-3; Eph. 6:4).
3. Help children prepare lesson for Bible class (Acts 17:11; Eph. 6:4).
4. Treat children in godly manner (show respect, affection, gratitude). Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21.
5. Communicate with children (Eph. 6:4).
6. Sexual education of children with God in the picture (Eph. 6:4; Heb. 13:4).
7. Balanced and consistent discipline (Eph. 6:4; Heb. 12:6-11).
8. Teach children how to give as we prosper and cheerfully (Eph. 4:28; 6:4; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7).

9. Other qualities are considered below under the family heading.

D. How does a man grow in leading the family as a unit?

1. Prayer with family gathered together (meal time; facing problem; decision making; other times). Philippians 4:6; Ephesians 5:23; 6:4.
2. Teach children "problem solving" with God in picture, and practice it with whole family (Matt. 7:12; 1 Pet. 3:10-12; 5:5-7).
3. Bible reading and study with family gathered together (Eph. 5:28-31; 6:4).
4. Spend good quality time with family (include some separate time with each one). Deuteronomy 6:7.
5. Make decisions for family after considering their needs, feelings, and input (Eph. 5:28-31; 6:4).
6. Be willing to visit and assist elderly and others, with help of wife and children (1 Tim. 5:16; Jas. 1:27).
7. Responsible use of money; work with wife; teach children (put the Lord first, then family necessities, and other things; share without grudging; balanced). 1 Corinthians 16:2; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 6:6-10.
8. Guide family in careful use of television (avoid double standard of warning children against ungodly shows, and then watching them ourselves; don't let television monopolize your time or the family's time; use moderation). 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; Ephesians 5:15-17.
9. Teach family difference between God's law and civil law (Acts 5:29; Matt. 19:9; Rom. 1:27).
10. Keep recreation in proper limits (don't compromise with sin or forsake assembly; consider interests of others in the family; don't be extravagant with it; don't let it crowd out other needed activities). James 1:27; 1 John 2:15-17.
11. Teach wife and children to teach others the gospel (encourage them to invite their friends to church, give out meeting announcements, etc.). Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 2:2.

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How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him"; lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved. But I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me. (Psalms 13:1-6 NKJV)