

## Hang On To Your Hope!

Donn Jibben 3-10-14

We all have experienced the power of wind and what it can do on the prairie. There is a saying that ranchers and farmers have used for generations when the wind blows that helps us all relate; "hang on to your hat." I clearly remember one time that while I walked out of the grain elevator in my hometown in MN with a very large check in my shirt pocket after selling some grain, of what can happen. The wind was blowing 40 mph plus that day and I didn't get to far from the grain elevators office when the swirling gusty wind sucked the check right out of my shirt pocket. I watched in disbelief as my check went straight up, sky ward towards the top of the concrete grain bins caught the jet steam and then disappeared out of sight. At first I gasped, then I lost hope for a second or two but then a thought came to me. So immediately, I went back into the grain elevator office to have the check voided / cancelled and to get a new one issued. It was a good morning after all when I walked into the local Bank with my newly issued check. I had hope again!

Our Hope in God can be like that too. We all face different challenges in life and some of them can be just down right very difficult and painful trials. At times it seems like the HOPE we do have can be just punched right out of us. It is then that we must never forget God's faithfulness and hang on to our HOPE IN HIM! I am reminded this morning of some Bible stories we came familiar with as children, Joseph and his brothers, Moses with the Israelite's at the Red Sea, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and the fiery furnace, Daniel and the Lion Dens to just name a few. They all faced very extreme difficulties but they didn't lose their HOPE IN GOD! In the end, God almighty always came through!

We live in a fallen, imperfect world and challenges, difficulties and trials of many kinds will come to us all sooner or later, at some point in our lives. Here is the good news, when we leave GOD in the picture there is always HOPE! So, no matter what you might be facing today keep God in the picture, keep Hope and faith in your heart because God will come through for you, for with GOD NOTHING IS TOO DIFFICULT!

Proverbs 13:12; "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."

Psalm 42:5; "Why are you so downcast oh my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God."

Psalm 31:42; "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord."

Col. 2:27; "Christ in us the hope of glory."

HANG ON TO YOUR HOPE IN GOD!

In Christ's love

Donn Jibben

Hope For The Rancher