



Wednesday, 11/30/16

HOPE IN HIS WORD

READING: Psalm 119:113-115, 146-148

They were the hardest 4 ½ of my life. Ben deployed to Iraq 15 months, John 12 months, Ben to Afghanistan 12 months, John for 12 months, then Shelly for over 3 months. All were exposed to unspeakable violence for much of that time. I kept my dress blues ready in case I needed to escort a casket home...

God's Word is unquestionably the very source of the hope I had and have today. He never promised our children would come home alive – many wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ have died in these wars. But, He did promise that He would never leave nor forsake me (Joshua 1:5). He led me to pray Psalm 86 every day that one of them was deployed. I found, again He is my "refuge and my shield"(119:114), and that as "I rise before dawn and cry for help" (119:147) that He does truly "Hear my prayer", "hear my cry for mercy" (86:6), and "give me an undivided heart" (86:11). The undivided heart saw afresh that His will was, is, and will be perfect and infinitely greater than mine. You see, my will was for my children to return home, and His will was for me to trust in Him regardless of the outcomes.

His Word changed my heart from wanting my will to be done to trusting in His will to be done in its infinite perfection and righteousness. He did not change, but He changed me by speaking His Holy Spirit empowered Word into my very being. "All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness..." (2 Tim 3:16) - I confess to being taught, rebuked, corrected and trained in righteousness by His Word over those 4 ½ years...and pray that He continue to change me by His Word until I pass from the land of the dying to the land of the living!

-Bob Meier