

# Grounded in Grace

## **Pictures of Hope and Redemption Pt 1**

### Remembrance and Reflection

Many of us will never forget where we were, what we were thinking, and the way we felt on 9/11. This month is the tenth anniversary of that changing date in American history. As I have watched countless hours of coverage, my heart has mourned and cried for those who lost their lives. On that day and the following weeks and months after it, all our lives were rearranged in some way. My heart has been reflective not only on my journey but also on many who have struggled through their own personal 9/11's. As I remember, the theme of hope and redemption has pierced my thoughts. As an honor and tribute, these verses and pictures will serve as an introduction to the next devotional series entitled, "Pictures of Hope and Redemption." My hope is that we will view God's redemption, discover his promises and find illustrations of hope in our own personal stories.

### **Picture #1 A Peaceful Life**

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

### **Picture #2 An Unexpected Destruction**

<sup>8</sup> We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup> He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> Corinthians 1:8-11

### **Picture #3 Honoring Loss and the Courage to Grieve**

Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.  
Matthew 5:4



#### **Picture #4 The Hidden Cross**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope Romans 5:1-4

#### **Picture #5 The Blue Rays of Hope**

<sup>5</sup> And hope does not disappoint us, because God's has poured out his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:5

#### **Picture #6 The Reconstruction of Life**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3

#### **Picture #7 The Redemption of the Soul**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17-19

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" Revelation 21:2-4

