

Joyful in Hope – 48 – May 12, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
Romans 12:12

Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

In John 9 and 10, Jesus had just given sight to a man who was born blind. Imagine never having seen. Never experiencing the wonderful colors of God’s creation. The wonder of a sunset. The colors of a rainbow. The beauty of flowers in Spring and snow on the mountain in the Winter. The vibrant array of leaves in Fall. Imagine never have seen your mother’s smile. And then, suddenly, it all becomes crystal clear. Everything appears before your eyes in living color. Living color. Life. Abundant life. The man that Jesus healed that day was catching a glimpse of the life that Jesus was now offering to everyone.

Of course, Jesus was talking about more than simply physical sight. He was talking about eternal life. Abundant life. Life in the Son.

Even during this time of coronavirus, this time of restriction, we see life happening all around us. I’m sitting in our back yard right now, and I am surrounded by signs of life. Our magnolia tree is in full bloom. A bright yellow tulip radiates beneath our lilac tree. A robin has built its nest about our patio light fixture, and is sitting on her three bright blue eggs, already cracked and about to hatch, three new lives being added to creation.

Life. It’s all around us. Kelly Sprague posted something on Facebook by Nadia Boltz Weber. She talks candidly about fear that seems to be griping our culture, and the call on Christians to live above the fear, to quit worrying, and to embrace life.

In another gospel, Jesus says that our Father in heaven, who takes care of those robins, well sparrows, cares so much more about each one of us, his children. So quit worrying, Jesus says. Quit worrying about a future that you have no control over, and live – live, in the present. LIVE in the present.

I hope you’re having an abundant day!