

WARM-UP

- Who for you is the best example of a good listener?
How does talking to this person make you feel?
- Have you ever experienced rescuing an animal?
What happened?
- Recall an instance when you did something you know is right,
even if it was disadvantageous for you. What happened as
a result?

WORD *By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the
earth and of the farthest seas . . .* **PSALM 65:5**

We see accounts of God's awesome deeds all over Scriptures. Here, the Psalmist declared that God *established the mountains* by His strength and *stills the roaring of the seas*. He is a great God worthy to receive all adoration, worship, and praise from every tribe and every nation. Because of who He is, He is *the hope of all the ends of the earth*. Today, we will look at what Scripture says about God and why we can put our hope in Him.

1 | God hears.

O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come. **PSALM 65:2**

We can take comfort knowing that God loves us so much that He pays attention to our cries. He does not play deaf when we pray, nor does He show favoritism. He hears prayers. Because of this, we can come to Him with the assurance that we can cry out to Him for help at all times, regardless of our background, race, or culture. Our confidence lies not only in the fact that He hears us, but that He is a powerful God who can move on our behalf. Share about a time when God heard and responded to your prayers.

2 | God saves.

³*When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.* ⁴*Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!* **PSALM 65:3-4**

God wants to bring people near Him because He wants to have a personal relationship with us. But, our sin keeps us away from Him. As the Psalmist says, our iniquities can overwhelm us. God knows that we cannot save ourselves. That is why He sent Jesus, His Son, to *atone for our transgressions* by dying on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Through Jesus, we can receive the forgiveness God offers freely and be brought near to God. We can put our hope in the God who made a way to save us so that we can dwell with Him and be satisfied with His goodness. What does Ephesians 2:4-5 say about how God saves us?

3 | God does righteous acts.

By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas . . . **PSALM 65:5**

This passage reminds us that God is righteous. He does what is right. When He answers our prayers, He does it in a manner that inspires awe and hope in the hearts of His people. Sometimes, we don't know what we are asking for when we pray. But, God knows exactly what we need even before we ask it of Him. In accordance with His righteous will, He gives us what we need exactly when we need it. We can put our hope in the God that does what is good for us. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, in what way does God meet our needs with righteousness? How does knowing this give us hope?

Colossians 1:5–6 tells us that our hope is *laid up* or reserved for us in heaven. Because of the gospel—the birth, life, and death of Jesus Christ—our hearts are filled with hope and anticipation that we will spend eternity with God, praising and worshiping Him for all the love and goodness He has lavished on us on earth. This is the hope we bring to all the nations of the world.

APPLICATION

- How does knowing that God is righteous and does what is right change the way you respond to the things that are happening in your life?
- Write one or two things you are praying for right now. What do the Scriptures say about them? Look for a passage you can memorize and continue to lift your concerns to God, in full confidence that God hears you.
- What change are you hoping for in your family, friends, or community? Continue to seek God for His righteousness to be revealed in these areas and pray for open doors to share the hope you have in Christ.

PRAYER

- Thank God for listening to the cries of our hearts. Pray that He will strengthen your faith and that He will align your prayers to what His words say.
- Pray that in the situations you are currently facing, you will find comfort knowing that God is righteous and does what is right. Pray that you will firmly trust God regardless of what is happening around you.
- Pray for someone who is in a dire situation and is in need of hope. Ask God for the grace to be a vessel of His love to that person this week.



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