**Unshakable Hope**

**Wednesday Meditation**

**by Reverend Victoria Ney**

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It’s a shaky world out there, isn’t it?  The elections have everyone a little crazy—especially with all the mail-in ballots.  There are problems with a new Supreme Court justice and the Senate.  And, of course, with all the government officials testing positive, the pandemic numbers don’t seem to be heading in a good direction.

And, let’s face it, we all have our own personal issues.  What’s shaking in your world?  Medical problems, financial issues, family relationships, your faith?

Could you use some unshakable hope?  If so, you’re not alone.  A lack of hope seems to be going around these days.

Then again, we have to remember that we are a people of promise, and we have an advantage over the rest of the population!  We are a people who ponder, proclaim, and pray the promises of God.  We filter life through God’s promises.

I know I mention Max Lucado quite often.  Here’s what he says about those promises:  “The promises of God serve as a drug store shelf of remedies.  Just as the doctor might prescribe a medication for your body, God has given promises for your heart”

* I personally believe that every problem in life has a promise from God.  I think we ought to get so acquainted with these promises that you can write yourself a prescription.  Here’s what I mean:
* I’m feeling fearful today.  Time for me to open up a bottle of Judges 6:12:  “The Lord is with you.”  I can claim the promise that God is right next to me every moment.
* Oh no, I just got some bad news!  I need Isaiah 41:10: “Don’t be afraid, for I am with you.  Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God.  I will strengthen you and help you.  I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.
* The world feels out of control today.  Time for a dose of Romans 8:28: “All things work together for good.”

Gosh!  I just watched the news.  I see scary things ahead.  Oh, yeah, Jesus told me:  “In this world, you will have trouble.  But take heart!  I have overcome the world.”  (John 16:33)

We all can use some encouragement from day today, and I guarantee you can get it if you open your Bible.  You sure aren’t going to get that encouragement looking around at the world or, unfortunately, even to other people—sometimes not even the ones you love.

Let’s be what we were made to be—People of the Promise.

The words of an old hymn come to my mind on this subject—Standing on the Promises.  Listen to these words:

*“Standing on the promises I cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God, I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.”*

Will you pray with me?

Thank you, Lord, that you are a mighty God and that we are your beloved children.  Thank you for the promises you have given us that can boost our spirits and comfort us when we need it most.  Help us to claim those promises and gain confidence that we do not face this world and our problems alone.  You are with us.  May we grab hold of your promises today and every day.  Amen.