Beware Of Misplaced Hope
June 11, 2022

Where is your hope standing on? What keeps you going when you are overwhelmed by anguish and despair? As we do not control all aspects of our existence, we tend to trust in something or someone bigger than ourselves.

One of our natural inclinations is to put our confidence in our accumulated resources. They are visible and measurable, leading us to think they are sure.

However, according to Paul, it is safer to place our hope in the Source of wealth than in wealth itself. “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” 1 Timothy 6:1

Mark, from South China, was deeply moved by a call for offering, and he gave 30 percent of his total savings as his offering. Soon afterward, he experienced a severe and unexpected financial crisis. His new business collapsed, and he fell into debt. During this time, he heard an appeal for a new church building that would cost 10 million Chinese Yuen. Mark realized that it was a rare opportunity to advance God’s mission in his province of more than 60 million people.
Impressed by the Holy Spirit, he committed to give a special offering of 400,000 Chinese Yuen. He had no idea where the money would come from. Then something amazing happened: the shareholder of his former architecture company invited him back to work. He accepted the offer and was soon promoted to executive officer and board director. Mark ended up contributing 1 million Chinese Yuen to the church building project. Looking back at his life's experiences, he wrote: “The grace of the Lord is like endless running water.”

Mark demonstrated trust by giving His fleeting resources to worship the God who richly provides for all. As you return your tithes and Promise, regular and systematic offerings, follow Mark’s example and make a statement about where your hope resides.

May we put our desires last, and God first.