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My Heart Leaped

By Teresa Hampton

It's hard to imagine the life Helen Keller knew as a child. She described it this way, "Once I knew only darkness and stillness...my life was without past or future...but a little word from the fingers of another fell into my hand that clutched at emptiness, and my heart leaped to the rapture of living." Her life had been dark and still until Anne Sullivan taught her to recognize and say the word 'water.' Do you suppose Anne's heart leaped at the thought of helping Helen communicate for the first time? Each day the young girl grew in her newfound knowledge of words and communication with others, and she hungered for more.

In a spiritual sense, that's what happens to those who are living without the Lord. They are in the darkness and stillness of sin, clutching emptiness. But God's word enables them to embrace salvation through obedience to Christ. "*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men*" (John 1:4). With Jesus, they begin to see everything differently. "*In Your light, we see light.*" (Psalm 36:7-9). As a child of the King, they live life fully in the present, with drive and hunger to know more about Him. "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled*" (Matt. 5:6). With eagerness, they look to the future, "*rejoicing in hope*" (Romans 12:12).

Helen Keller often expressed gratitude for Miss Sullivan's patience and persistence. I wonder, are we willing to be a 'spiritual Anne Sullivan' to those who are groping in the darkness of sin? It will require that we look for opportunities, and have patience and persistence in the teaching. But when we share God's word about the gospel of Christ, some will see and obey. Then together our hearts will leap with the rapturous joy of salvation, the immeasurable blessings of living for Jesus, and the incomparable hope of heaven!

Today's verse: "*We give thanks...praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints, because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel*" (Colossians 1:3-5).

Today's prayer: Please, Lord, help me teach others with patience and persistence.

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