**The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis**

**BOOK TWO:** THE INTERIOR LIFE

**Chapter 9 Part 3:** Wanting No Share in Comfort

**Quote:**

"In what can I hope, then, or in whom ought I trust, save only in the great mercy of God and the hope of heavenly grace? For though I have with me good men, devout brethren, faithful friends, holy books, beautiful treatises, sweet songs and hymns, all these help and please but little when I am abandoned by grace and left to my poverty. At such times there is no better remedy than patience and resignation of self to the will of God. I have never met a man so religious and devout that he has not experienced at some time a withdrawal of grace and felt a lessening of fervor. No saint was so sublimely rapt and enlightened as not to be tempted before and after. He, indeed, is not worthy of the sublime contemplation of God who has not been tried by some tribulation for the sake of God. For temptation is usually the sign preceding the consolation that is to follow, and heavenly consolation is promised to all those proved by temptation. "To him that overcometh," says Christ, "I will give to eat of the Tree of Life." Divine consolation, then, is given in order to make a man braver in enduring adversity, and temptation follows in order that he may not pride himself on the good he has done. The devil does not sleep, nor is the flesh yet dead; therefore, you must never cease your preparation for battle, because on the right and on the left are enemies who never rest."

**Definition:**

Hope: To trust in, wait for, look for, or desire something or someone; or to expect something beneficial in the future.

**Scripture:**

**Psalm 39:7**

But now, Lord, what do I look for?  My hope is in you.

**Psalm 121:1-2**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**Jeremiah 29:11**

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

**Romans 15:13:**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**Concept:**

When adversity happens in a person’s life, Satan becomes empowered to take away a person’s peace and joy when they put their hope in anything but God; whereas, when adversity happens in a person’s life, Satan becomes disempowered to take away a person’s peace and joy when they put their hope and trust in God and in God alone.

**Discussion:**

How does believing that God is the master mind behind creation give hope?

How does knowing and understanding God’s purpose for creating the universe create hope?

Why should we have hope for eternal life as a result of getting to know who God is through his Son, Jesus Christ?