

# Quoting both W.E.B. DuBois and Bart Simpson

Keep Your Head Down!

“Life is Hell!” This is an interesting conclusion about the apparent randomness of the pervasive and relentless evil we see around us and the universal end of all life, death; whether we agree or reject this quote, what is important is deciding what to do with and about life and death. There are really only four viable options:

- Say as many do and some foolishly try: “You only go around once in life, so grab all the gusto you can.” Or in Bible parlance: “Let us eat and drink,” you say, “for tomorrow we die!”
- Give in and up to the apparent futility of it all, getting no joy from life and having no hope for anything better in the future – getting lost in the mundane of day-to-day living.
- See earthly life as the precursor and foundation to forever and try to live life accordingly.
- See earthly life as an antecedent to forever, but just in case . . ., try to make life now heaven on earth.

No matter the decision and direction we take, anyone with half a brain would agree that life, at best, is difficult for everyone; with this we must all deal! But life is not hell – either we live in an eternity (with it being good for everyone or good for some and bad for the others, a true hell) or we are dead for eternity.

Observing the path of the fool or mindlessly giving into futility offer no comfort, so the options of hope are eternal existence. And it doesn’t take long to make short shift of the *just in case . . .* religious approach since this is simply the foolish religious parallel to the *grab all the gusto* of the more honest non-religious fool.

So, yes, life is difficult, but there is hope and help for NOW and eternity if we stay on guard and seek, find and accept the available help; recognizing that life is not hell, but it is a battle, an on-going, up and down, fight! Christianity, uniquely, offers hope for eternity based on the proof of God’s help today; not based on our doing good and right, but based solely on His Grace.

Any religion (even those professing to be “Christian”) that bases our place in eternity on what we do here, on earth, is a false religion! True Christianity (read the Book!) says what we do here and now is simply a sign and indicator, not a basis, of where we will be in eternity! Those who are seeking to do good, and by this please God, should stop – in this there is no hope!

There is only hope in:

- First seeing, in myself, only helplessness – no hope.
- Recognizing, in others and things, ineffectiveness to help – having, in and through them, no expectations.
- Placing some faith in the seemingly current little light we may see, but light nevertheless (in contrast to the total darkness others put forward) – some optimism.
- Realizing and fighting to maintain (and increase!) humility (meaning in ourselves having no faith) as our only hope! Only at the end of (and beyond) ourselves will we find hope and help!
- Accepting the truth that while life is not hell, but it is an on-going and constant war – which is hard to accept when we live in the best the world has to offer (we can foolishly believe and live as if there is the possibility of heaven on earth).
- Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his God so that you can take your stand against against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the realms. Therefore put on the full armor of



mighty power. Put on the full armor of the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not rulers, against the authorities, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly God, so that when the day of evil comes,

you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Eph 6:10-18

## 2007 – The Year for Seeking

Seeking an Equilibrium of Excellence!



It is “natural” and right to be surprised by the type and nature of trials we face in 2007, but it is not right to be shocked by them! In fact,

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Jas 1:2 - 4

But what about the ultimate trial of life, death? Again, in this we have God’s Grace – His hope and help. As Jesus said:

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. Matthew 10:28 - 34

“Whoever acknowledges me before men . . .” meaning those who:

- First see, in themselves, no hope.
- Recognize, in others and things, equal ineffectiveness – offering no expectations.
- Place some faith in the seemingly current little light we may see, but light nevertheless (in contrast to the total darkness others propose) – this light providing some optimism.
- Realize and fight to maintain (and increase!) humility (meaning in ourselves having no faith) as our only hope; keeping our head down!
- Accept the truth that while life is not hell, it is an on-going and constant war – which is hard when we live in the best the world has to offer (we can foolishly believe and live as if there is the possibility heaven on earth).

• Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his so that you can take your stand against the against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the realms. Therefore put on the full armor of may be able to stand your ground, and after



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