

The Chaplain of Oz: A Journey of Faith, Hope, and Redemption

By Chaplain Paul 193 and Chat GPT March 2025

Hope is a dream growing in a cocoon, wrapped in a blanket of faith. Real hope is not just wishful thinking—it is rooted in faith, and faith gives birth to the reality of hope. *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* (Hebrews 11:1)

Hope is like a shooting star captured in a jelly jar, a flicker of light in the darkness, waiting to be set free. But in this world, many have been deceived—tricked into believing they are far less than what God created them to be.

Down the yellow brick road of life, three companions travel, each burdened by the lies of the enemy.

First comes the Scarecrow, a man made of straw, quick-witted and full of potential, yet deceived into thinking he has no brain. Satan, the father of lies, has convinced him that he lacks wisdom. Yet the Word of God declares, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."* (James 1:5) The Scarecrow was never without wisdom—it was within him all along, placed there by his Creator.

Next appears the Tin Man, a kind and compassionate soul, yet trapped in the lie that he has no heart. The enemy whispers that he is unworthy of love, that his heart is empty and cold. But God's truth speaks otherwise: *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."* (Ezekiel 36:26) The Tin Man's love and compassion were real—they had never left him. He simply needed the truth to set him free.

Then there is the Cowardly Lion, a mighty creature reduced to trembling fear. His courage has been stolen, replaced by doubt and uncertainty. Yet God says, *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9) The Lion was never truly cowardly—his courage had been within him all along, waiting to be reclaimed.

"Oh no! Lions, tigers, and bears—oh my!" The road is filled with trials and dangers, but the greatest battle is within. The enemy sows doubt, fear, and lies, leading many to forget who they are in Christ.

Then, on that fateful day, the Chaplain of Oz appears. Not a wizard, not a man behind a curtain, but a servant of the Most High, a messenger of truth. He does not offer empty illusions or false promises. Instead, he leads them to the One who holds all power, wisdom, love, and courage—Christ Yeshua.

***"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:32)**

With the Word of God as his staff and the love of Christ as his guide, the Chaplain of Oz shows them that they were never lacking at all. The Scarecrow had wisdom, the Tin Man had love, and the Lion had courage—gifts given by God, buried beneath the lies of the enemy.

And so, their chains fall away. No longer deceived, no longer bound by fear as they walk by faith and not by sight, clothed in the truth of God's promises.

For it is written: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4:13)

And so, the journey continues—not to a city of emeralds, but to a kingdom everlasting, where truth reigns, and hope is fulfilled...Amen John 3:16





PSALMS 23 THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD I SHALL NOT WANT HE MAKES ME TO LAY DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS HE RESTORS MY SOUL AND LEADS ME BACK ON A PATH OF RIGHTUSNESS FOR HIS NAME SAKE. YEA THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH I SHALL FEAR NO EVIL. THY ROD AND THY STAFF COMFORT ME, YOU HAVE PREPARED A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL MY CUP RUNS OVER SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE AND I SHALL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOR EVER AND EVER...AMEN