

HOPE: CONFIDENT EXPECTATION

Not Just Wishful Thinking

HOPE – CONFIDENT EXPECTATION

- World's version versus the Biblical Version
- Optimistic &/or Naive – No firm foundation
 - It might or might not happen – no real confidence
 - Keep trying or give up
- Solidified by The Word of God – Very Firm

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- According to a passage for Our Daily Bread: True hope is dynamic & powerful because it considers the circumstances of life realistically - & then confidently rests in the promises & character of God.
- The Word tells us to Hope in the Lord, the Word tells us God has plans to give us Hope and a future (**Jeremiah 29:11**). But nowhere in the Bible does it say that Hope brought on a miracle from the Lord. It wasn't by Hope that Jesus raised Lazarus from the death. It wasn't with Hope that Jesus fed the multitude. All those acts were done in *Faith*. (*Therebelchristian.com/blog/the-difference-between-faith-and-hope*)

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- **Hope doesn't take the place of Faith**
 - Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].
- **Hope is based upon and enhanced by Faith**
- **True hope is unseen: *Romans 8:24*** ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved [by faith]. But hope [the object of] which is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait eagerly for it with patience *and* composure.
- **Hope is based upon knowing God, His Promises and His Faithfulness**
 - ***Hebrews 10:23*** Let us seize *and* hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is reliable *and* trustworthy *and* faithful [to His word];

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- **Source of Hope**

- **Romans 15:13:** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope *and* overflow with confidence in His promises.
- **Hope comes from God: Psalm 39:7** “And now, Lord, for what do I expectantly wait? My hope [my confident expectation] is in You.
- Hope is a gift:
- **Romans 5:2-5:** ² Through Him we also have access by faith into this [remarkable state of] grace in which we [firmly and safely and securely] stand. Let us rejoice in our [a] hope *and* the confident assurance of [experiencing and enjoying] the glory of [our great] God [the manifestation of His excellence and power]. ³ And not only *this*, but [with joy] let us exult in our sufferings *and* rejoice in our hardships, knowing that hardship (distress, pressure, trouble) produces patient endurance; ⁴ and endurance, proven character (spiritual maturity); and proven character, hope *and* confident assurance [of eternal salvation]. ⁵ Such hope [in God’s promises] never disappoints us, because God’s love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

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- **Hope is versatile – it looks different in different situations** – Because it relies on the goodness & faithfulness of God, it has many faces to respond fully to the different experiences of life:
- **Hope is courageous: 2 Corinthians 3:12** ¹² Since we have such a [glorious] hope *and* confident expectation, we speak with great courage
- **Hope is patient: 1Thessalonians 1:2-3** ² We give thanks to God always for all of you, *continually* mentioning you in our prayers; ³ recalling unceasingly before our God and Father your work energized by faith, and your service motivated by love and unwavering hope in [the return of] our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Hope endures: Proverbs 23:18** Surely there is a future [and a reward], And your hope & expectation will not be cut off

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- **Hope is expectant: Titus 2:13-14** ¹¹ For the [remarkable, undeserved] grace of God that [a]brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to reject ungodliness and worldly (immoral) desires, and to live sensible, upright, and godly lives [lives with a purpose that reflect spiritual maturity] in this present age, ¹³ awaiting *and* confidently expecting the [fulfillment of our] blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴ who [willingly] gave Himself [to be crucified] on our behalf to redeem us *and* purchase our freedom from all wickedness, and to purify for Himself a chosen *and* very special people to be His own possession, *who are* enthusiastic for doing what is good.

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- **Hope is a source of stability:**
- **Hebrews 6:18-19:** ¹⁸so that by two unchangeable things [His promise and His oath] in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled [to Him] for refuge would have strong encouragement *and* indwelling strength to hold tightly to the hope set before us. ¹⁹This hope [this confident assurance] we have as an anchor of the soul [it cannot slip and it cannot break down under whatever pressure bears upon it]—a safe and steadfast hope that enters within the veil [of the heavenly temple, that most Holy Place in which the very presence of God dwells]

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- **Hope has a purifying effect:**
- **1 John 3:2-3:** ² Beloved, we are [even here and] now children of God, and it is not yet made clear what we will be [after His coming]. We know that when He comes *and* is revealed, we will [as His children] be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is [in all His glory]. ³ And everyone who has this hope [confidently placed] in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (holy, undefiled, guiltless).

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- **How Do We Maintain Our Gift Of Hope:**
- **Hebrews 10: 23-25** ²³ Let us seize *and* hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is reliable *and* trustworthy *and* faithful [to His word]; ²⁴ and let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching.

CONCLUSION

- Do not mistake Hope for Faith
- It is possible to have Hope without Faith
- You have to make sure you aren't just hopeful. HOPE IN THE LORD! Don't *stop* having hope, don't *stop* having an optimistic attitude. But *don't stop* checking yourself. Make sure what you have is hope *and* faith combined.
- According to Kenneth Hagin (Rhema.org): To get our prayers answered, we must be in faith, not hope. There's a difference between the two. Sometimes we think we're in faith, but we're not.

CONCLUSION

- **Gbclife.com/blog March 22, 2021. The Importance of Having Hope**
- In the Book of Romans, the word hope occurs 15 times and is connected with the believer's perseverance through various experiences by faith and the Word of God.
 - (1) Hope sustains us when the odds appear against us (**Romans 4:18**).
 - (2) Hope produces joy because it looks beyond the immediate circumstances to a promise from God (**Romans 5:2; 12:12; 15:13**).
 - (3) Hope overcomes disappointment because there is the knowledge of God's love no matter what (**Romans 5:5**).
 - (4) Hope gives us a certain expectation now as we wait for the future of our salvation to come (**Romans 8:24, 25**).
 - (5) Hope is fed by the Word of God filling us with His testimony about Himself as we apply it and trust it each day of our lives (**Romans 15:4**).