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# The Princeton Path **FINDER**

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*ELPIS IN CHRIST*

*JESUS CHRIST, OUR LIVING HOPE*

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*Hold On to Hope and Don't Let Go*



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

## Elpis In Christ

*Faith* and hope are vital pillars, playing integral roles in our spiritual lives as disciples of Christ. Yet, within the realm of Christendom, these fundamentals can and often are misunderstood or misrepresented. Although faith and hope share important similarities, it's essential to explore the nuanced distinctions that separate them, particularly as outlined in Scripture. By recognizing and delving into these differences, we not only gain a richer understanding of these foundational beliefs but also enrich their impact on our everyday experiences. Embracing the true essence of faith and hope can profoundly influence our actions, decisions, and overall relationship with God.

### Understanding Faith and Hope

My growing enthusiasm for the intentionality behind words leads me to contemplate the nature of faith and hope and their interconnectedness in the lives of Christians. It is crucial to emphasize that we are discussing biblical faith and hope, as secular interpretations can diverge significantly. Thus, the question becomes: what do the Scriptures teach us about saving faith and hope?

### Hope: Confidence in the Future

In the Bible, hope embodies a robust confidence concerning what lies ahead. This distinction sets Christian hope apart from the more generic uses of the term found in everyday language, where 'hope' can often be synonymous with wishful thinking. *Romans 5:5* encapsulates this idea by stating, "**Hope does not put us to shame,**" underscoring that this hope is steadfast and reliable. It is not a flimsy desire; rather, it is anchored in the certainty of future promises.

One of the key passages that elaborate on this Christian hope is *Romans 8:24–25*, which reads, "**In this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**" Here, hope is depicted as something not fully realized; it dwells in the future. To say that hope does not see what it hopes for signifies that its fulfillment is still to come. The emphasis on patiently waiting indicates a profound level of trust and assurance in what God has promised.

Thus, the essence of Christian hope is its future orientation—it requires a firm conviction in what we are anticipating, rather than a mere desire for it to occur.

### Faith: A Personal and Treasuring Trust

Contrasting with hope, faith is a more expansive and comprehensive concept within the biblical framework. While faith certainly incorporates elements of hope, it transcends it. This distinction might surprise some, as it positions biblical hope as essentially a future-oriented aspect of faith. In simpler terms, one might say, "Biblical hope is biblical faith looked at through the lens of the future."

In [Hebrews 11:1](#), it is noted that the \*substance\* of our future hopes—be it a reward or a divine blessing—can be sensed currently through what is termed faith. In other words, faith itself is the way we engage with the substance of those future promises, integrating them into our lives right now.

An illustration of this principle can be drawn from [Hebrews 12:2](#), where the writer reflects, “**Jesus . . . for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame.**” In this moment, God assured Jesus that beyond the ordeal of the cross—the immense suffering and humiliation—there awaited a profound joy. This joy was not merely a distant notion; it was something that Jesus could envision just beyond the trials he faced, something He genuinely hoped for. In this manner, it parallels the “**things hoped for**” from [Hebrews 11:1](#).

I would argue that in the moments of anguish in the garden of Gethsemane, and even during His crucifixion, Jesus was able to persevere and endure because He was already experiencing a taste of that future joy promised to Him. That anticipation was real—it was integral to His faith. Thus, [Hebrews 11:1](#) implies that completely separating faith from hope is nearly impossible; they are indeed two sides of the same coin.

## Faith and Hope Forever

To further examine the intertwining nature of faith and hope in the New Testament, let’s consider the words of the Apostle Paul in [2 Corinthians 5:6-7](#): “**We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.**” Here, Paul highlights an essential quality of faith: it recognizes and embraces as real the things that are not visible, such as the resurrected Lord Jesus. He notes that while we dwell in this earthly body, the Lord resides in heaven, and although we cannot see Him, our love for Him and our trust in Him endure. Thus, we walk by faith, not constricted by the limitations of sight.

It is essential to recognize that when we encounter Him face-to-face at His second coming, faith will not completely vanish. While one significant aspect of faith—believing in what is unseen—will be realized through the actual sight of Him, this does not imply that faith itself will come to an end. Several dimensions of faith will inevitably continue to exist and flourish in the heavenly realm. In heaven, our relationship with Christ will deepen, and we will continue to trust in Him wholeheartedly. We will partake of Him as the living bread, a vital source of spiritual nourishment, because He is eternal. His characteristics as our “Provider” and “Sustainer” will endure forever, emphasizing the continuous reliance we will have on Him. Similarly, the concept of hope will not be diminished by our new reality. In our earthly lives, we often navigate our journeys guided by hope rather than sight, anticipating what is yet to come. However, the fulfillment of sight—where we behold our Savior—will not erase our hope. Instead, it will transform and enrich it. Heaven will be a magnificent realm abundant in both faith and hope. Within this divine space, there will always be futures to explore, opportunities to embrace, and experiences to anticipate. We will continue to grow in our understanding of Christ, discovering new dimensions of His love and grace. This ongoing journey will provide us with endless reasons to trust in Him and treasure our relationship with Him, even in the majestic reality of heaven.

# Hope

essentially embodies faith projected into the future. Everything we can affirm about hope from a biblical perspective also applies to faith. However, it’s vital to recognize that faith encompasses more than hope as it entails a deeper trust in a person, encompassing both past experiences and future expectations. Thus, faith and hope together provide a dynamic framework for understanding our relationship with God and the promises He has for us.

Let’s say you want to describe the feeling of anticipating a future that’s better than the present. You might be giddy or excited or maybe unsure, but most of us know that experience. We call it hope. It’s a state of anticipation, and it’s crucial for healthy human existence, and it’s a really important concept in the Bible. In fact, there are many words for hope in the ancient languages of the Bible, and they’re all fascinating.

In the Old Testament, there are two main Hebrew words translated as hope. The first is yakhal, which means simply “to wait for.” Like in the story of Noah and the ark, as the flood waters recede, Noah had to yakhal for weeks. [Genesis 8:6-12](#)

The other Hebrew word is qavah, which also means to wait. It’s related to the Hebrew word qav, which means cord. When you pull a qav tight, you produce a state of tension until there’s release. That’s qavah, the feeling of tension and expectation while you wait for something to happen. The prophet Isaiah depicts God as a farmer who plants vines and qavahs for good grapes. [Isaiah 28:24-29](#) Or the prophet Micah talks about farmers who both qavah and yakhal for morning dew to give moisture to the land. Micah 5:7

## Hope in the Old Testament

So in biblical Hebrew, hope is about waiting or expectation, but waiting for what? In the period of Israel’s prophets, as the nation was sinking into self-destruction, Isaiah said, “**at this moment, the Lord’s hiding his face from Israel, so I will qavah for him.**” [Isaiah 8:17](#) The only hope Isaiah had in those dark days was the hope for God himself.

You find this same notion of hope all over the book of Psalms where these words appear over forty times. In almost every case, what people are waiting for is God. Like in Psalm 130, the poet cries out from a pit of despair, “**I qavah for the Lord...Let Israel yakhal for the Lord, because he’s loyal and will redeem Israel from its sins.**” [Psalm 130:5-8](#)

## Biblical Hope

Biblical hope is based on a person, which makes it different from optimism. Optimism is about choosing to see, in any situation, how circumstances could work out for the best. But biblical hope isn’t focused on circumstances. In fact, hopeful people in the Bible often recognize there’s no evidence things will get better, but they choose hope anyway.

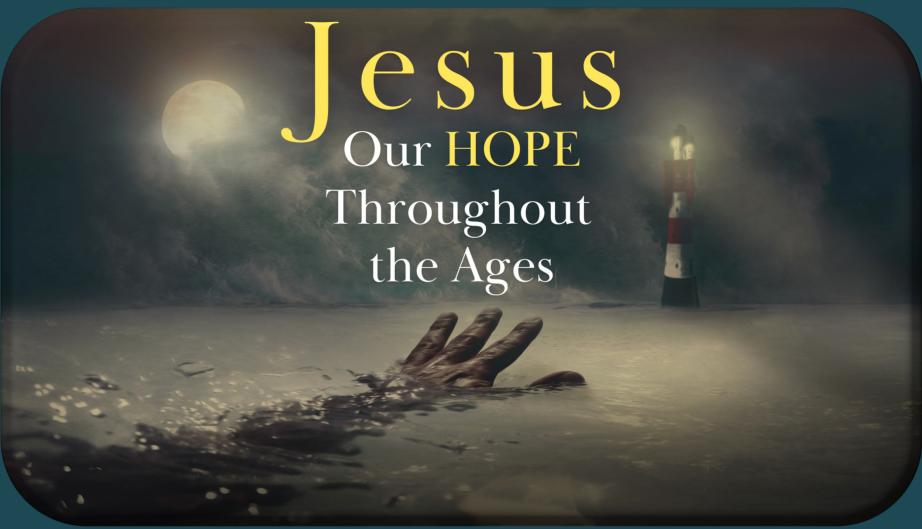
Like the prophet Hosea, he lived in a dark time when Israel was being oppressed by foreign empires. And he chose hope when he said God could turn this “**valley of trouble into a door of hope,**” like the day when Israel came up from the land of Egypt. [Hosea 2:15](#) God had surprised his people with redemption back in the days of the Exodus, and he could do so again.

So it’s God’s past faithfulness that motivates hope for the future. You look forward by looking backward, trusting in nothing other than God’s character. It’s like the poet of Psalm 39 who says, “**and now O Lord, what else can I qavah for? You are my yakhal.**” [Psalm 39:7](#)

## Jesus as Living Hope

In the New Testament, the earliest followers of Jesus cultivated this similar habit of hope. They believed that Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection was God’s astonishing response to our slavery to evil and death.

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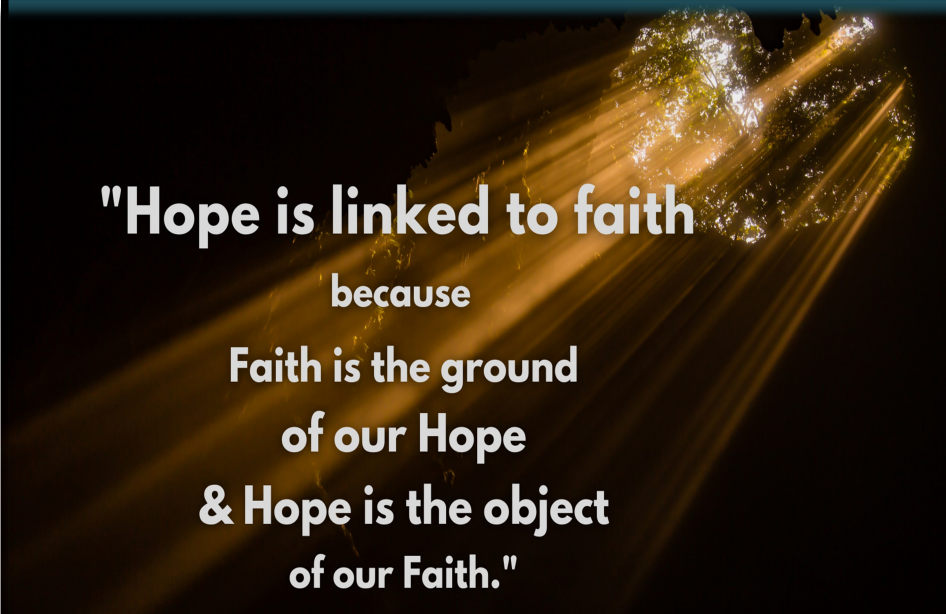
**J**esus  
Our **HOPE**  
Throughout  
the Ages

Faith itself encompasses more than just the belief that God will fulfill His promises. It represents a trusting relationship with Jesus Christ—a deep-seated assurance not only in His words but in His character. Faith leads us to declare to Christ, “I trust You, not merely Your promises. I believe that You are reliable and trustworthy.” This trust can indeed be future-focused, such as in moments when we lean on God’s assurances regarding our future well-being or guidance.

However, faith also holds the power to anchor us in past truths. For instance, when Christ proclaims, “I died for you two thousand years ago; I bore your sins, Aaron, and absorbed my Father’s wrath for you,” the response of faith is an emphatic “I believe you.” In this moment, faith is affirming past events that have profound implications for present and future life. It signifies a relationship with Christ that is rooted in trust, going beyond the realm of what is yet to come.

## The Interrelationship of Faith and Hope

Despite these distinctions, it is important to recognize that the Scriptures present hope and faith in ways that are closely intertwined. The mark of a genuine relationship with God is characterized by trust—the kind of treasure that enhances our understanding of both faith and hope. While hope looks ahead with a confident expectation, faith lives in the reality of a trusting relationship with Christ that encompasses both past and future. Together, they form a foundation for a robust Christian life, where confidence in God’s promises fuels our trust and perseverance as we navigate the complexities of life.



**"Hope is linked to faith  
because  
Faith is the ground  
of our Hope  
& Hope is the object  
of our Faith."**

## Tasting Coming Joy

In exploring the concept of hope as expressed in Scripture, we can turn to Psalm 42, where it states, “**Hope in God.**” This phrase has resonated deeply with me during periods of discouragement and times of difficulty.

I’m often reminded during these troubled times, “Hope in God, Aaron. You shall again praise Him, your help and your God.”

The act of placing my hope in God amid challenges becomes almost indistinguishable from trusting in Him. The hope conveyed in this psalm closely aligns with the idea of faith in God as it pertains to the future.

Hebrews 11:1 presents a profound connection between faith and hope, revealing their intricate relationship. It proclaims, “**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for.**” After much contemplation, I have come to believe that the term “substance” is a more appropriate translation than “assurance.” This assertion could merit a detailed exploration to elaborate on the usage of the word *\*hypostasis\** throughout the book of Hebrews, but for the sake of this discussion, let us consider this translation as accurately reflecting the intended meaning.

So, what does this mean? The passage speaks of “**things hoped for,**” implying that there exists a tangible reality in the future, one that God has promised us. This reality has been unveiled to us in ways that distinguish it as precious—something worth dedicating our lives to and even worth enduring hardships for. We hold firmly to the confidence that God will grant us the extraordinary blessing of fully experiencing that which we presently hope for.

To articulate this further, faith, as described in this context, serves as the experience of grasping the essence of a future reality—something that we know, believe, taste, and cherish in the present.

The empty tomb opened up a new door of hope, and they used the Greek word **elpis** “Ελπίς” to describe this anticipation.

The apostle Peter said that Jesus’ resurrection opened up a “**living hope**” that people can be reborn to become new and different kinds of humans.

1 Peter 1:3 More than once, the apostle Paul says the good news about Jesus announces “the **elpis** “Ελπίς” of glory.” Romans 5:2. Colossians 1:27 In both cases, this **elpis** “Ελπίς” is based on a person, the risen Jesus, who has overcome death.

And this hope wasn’t just for humans. The apostles believed that what happened to Jesus in the resurrection was a foretaste of what God had planned for the whole universe. In Paul’s words, it’s a “**hope that creation itself will be liberated from slavery to corruption into freedom when God’s children are glorified.**” Romans 8:21



So Christian hope is bold, waiting for humanity and the whole universe to be rescued from evil and death. And some would say it’s crazy, and maybe it is. But biblical hope isn’t optimism based on the odds. It’s a choice to wait for God to bring about a future that’s as surprising as a crucified man rising from the dead. Christian hope looks back to the risen Jesus in order to look forward, and so we wait. And that’s what the biblical words for faith, hope and trust are all about.

In conclusion, the distinct yet intertwined concepts of faith and hope provide a solid foundation for living a joy-filled life in and for God. By understanding that hope embodies a confident anticipation of what God has promised, and that faith represents a trusting relationship with Him whom this hope comes from, we can navigate all of life’s challenges with assurance. As we place our hope in God’s unfailing character and trust in His plans for our future, we open ourselves to the joy that comes from His presence and His promises.

**This joy is not dependent on our circumstances but is rooted in the deep conviction that God is faithful.**

Ultimately, as we nurture our faith and hope, we can experience a profound sense of joy that sustains us through every season of life, reminding us that we are never alone on our journey. By cultivating a hopeful outlook for the future and fostering a trusting relationship with Christ, we can rejoice even amid trials, knowing that our faith and hope in God will ultimately lead to fulfillment and joy that is everlasting. With each step of faith, we can proclaim, “**My joy is secure in Him,**” John 15:11 and share that joy with others, reflecting the light of His promises in a world that deeply longs for sustainable hope.

*Aaron Jones*

Article Inspired from below citations:

Desiring God Podcast Episode 1824 August 19, 2022  
Bibleproject.com Word Studies Dec 7, 2017  
Lexicon Word study on hope G1680. elpis,  
Strong’s H3176 - yāḥal,  
Strong’s H6960 - qāwā

**We live** in seemingly hopeless times where so much is happening - pandemic, riots, protests, fires, and a nation divided. "Is there any hope" for the future? When will it ever end? In this writing, we will discover that Christ is our hope even when all hope is gone.

### **There is Hope for the Hopeless**

Years ago, an S-4 submarine was rammed by a ship off the coast of Massachusetts. It sank immediately. The entire crew was trapped in a prison house of death. Every effort was made to rescue the crew, but it ultimately failed.

Near the end of the ordeal, a deep-sea diver, who was doing everything in his power to find a way for the crew's release, thought he heard tapping on the steel wall of the sunken sub. He placed his helmet up against the side of the vessel and he realized it was the Morse Code. He attached himself to the side and spelled out in his mind the message being tapped from within.

It was repeating the same question. The question was, from within, this: "Is...there...any...hope?"

The well-known preacher Chuck Swindoll wrote these words... "We can live several weeks without food, days without water, and only minutes without oxygen, but

without hope – forget it."

Is there any hope? Do we feel kind of like those sailors in the sunken submarine, trapped and just waiting for the end?

A lot of things often get messed up. Everything seems to go from bad to worse. And it would be easy probably for many of us to lose hope. Statistics say that depression, anxiety, and thoughts of suicide are greatly on the rise in this day and time.

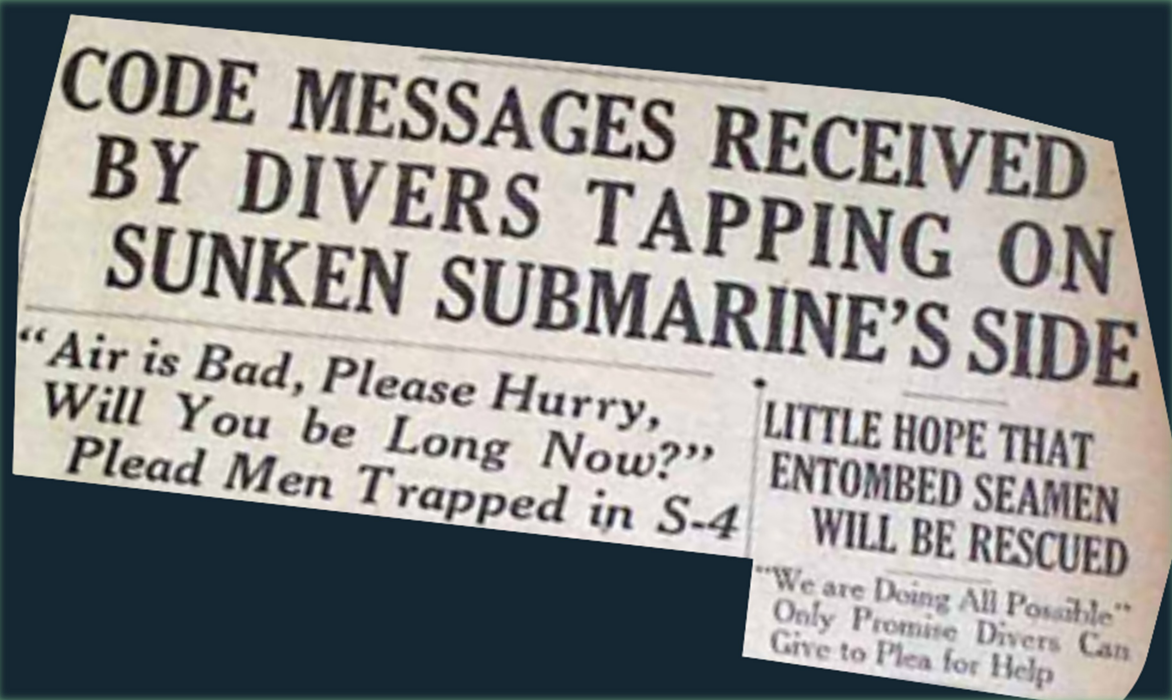
We've also seen how people are incredibly angry. Protests and riots almost daily. Sickness, lockdowns, and quarantine. And a country is greatly divided. Is there any hope for the future... for our world today?

Two scriptures come to mind.

The first one is 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."*

The second one is Hebrews 11:1 which says - *Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. We have hope for what is going to happen. It is evidence of things we cannot yet see.*

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So, what does Christianity offer that the world can't?

One word- HOPE!

Hope for salvation.

Hope for a new beginning.

Hope for freedom.

Hope of life beyond this struggle.

Hope of Heaven.

Hope of a God who cares.

Hope to overcome.

Hope that transcends difficulties and disease.

Hope that defeats persecution and tribulation.

Hope that gives us the strength to stand because we are not alone.

Through Christ, we can have hope even when things seem hopeless!

Christianity offers the world a genuine hope. What hope does this world offer you beyond this life?

In 1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV) it says...

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

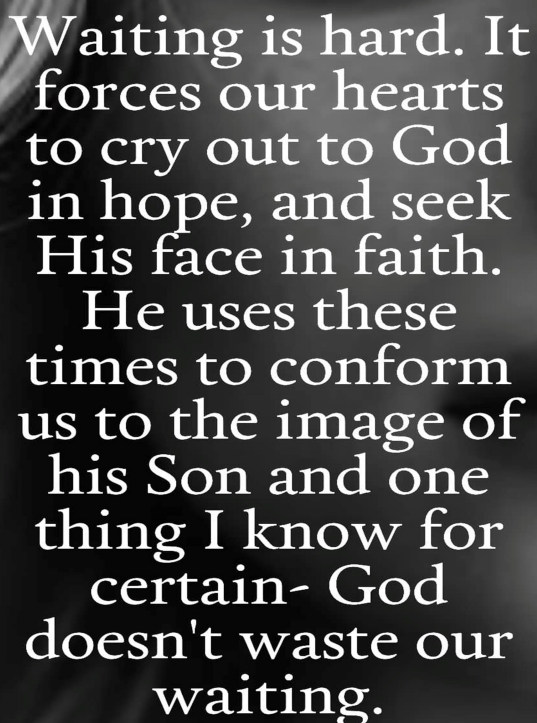
What has God given us? What has He given us according to His great mercy? “

New birth into a living hope.” Think about that. As a believer and follower of Jesus Christ Scripture teaches that we are new creatures, new creations – the old has gone, the new has come. We've been reborn. What is different? We are forgiven, saved, given a second chance, a new beginning, a new life.

Now we have hope. Hope for what? Immediately we think of heaven, right? And that's what he indicates next – *“an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade... kept in heaven for you.”* The inheritance that this world gives you will perish, spoil, and fade... it won't last. One day it will all be gone and you can't take it with you... you can't enjoy it forever.

Before we had no hope of heaven. If we did, we would be deceived. Now we do. Now we have hope beyond this life if we know Jesus Christ.

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Waiting is hard. It forces our hearts to cry out to God in hope, and seek His face in faith. He uses these times to conform us to the image of his Son and one thing I know for certain- God doesn't waste our waiting.

But something else. Think of life before Christ.

Did we have any hope? If we did, it was hope within ourselves – hope based on nothing solid – something we controlled by our own decisions.

What about your life was hopeless?

Was it your downward spiral of sin and addictions?

Was your life continually falling apart as you continued to be your own worst enemy?

If you had one word to describe your life before Christ, would it be the word **HOPELESS**? I am sure it was for most of us. What is different today? Is it hope?

You know the Bible talks about Faith as a Shield. Think of that. We all need that shield when facing temptations and trials. We all need God's power when we are really struggling just to hold on and when we are just about ready to give in.

Christianity gives us genuine hope that this world cannot provide!

What hope does this world give you to be free from guilt and sin?

Let's look at Titus 2:11-14

*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

What does God's grace teach us?

His grace teaches us to say "No." Do you mean I can say "no" to sin?

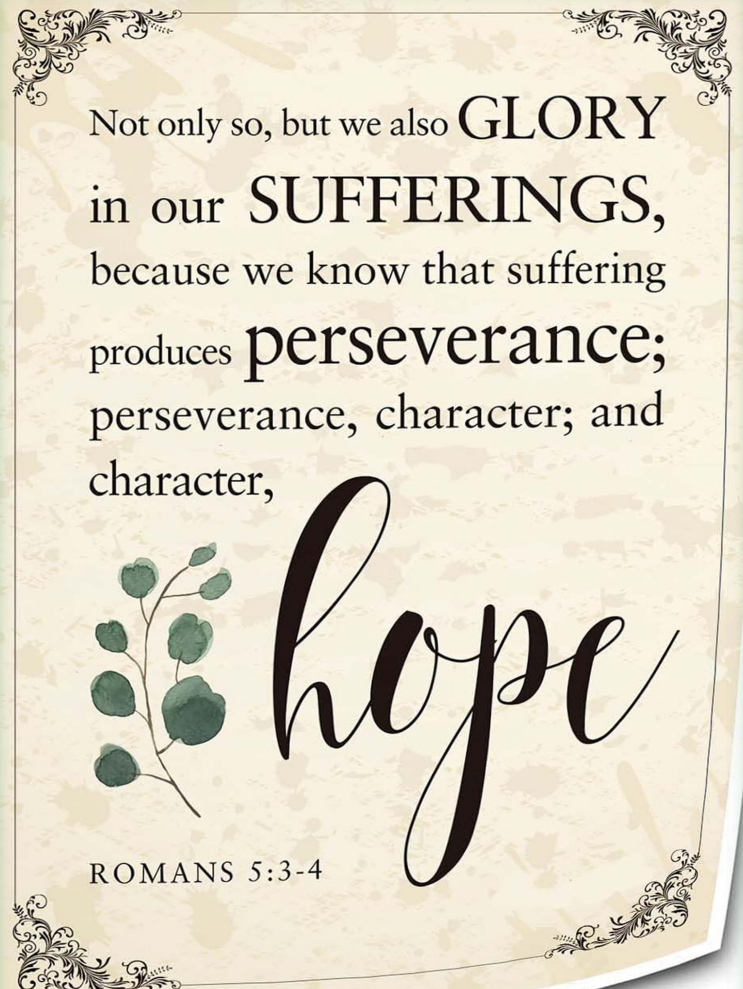
Yes! In this "present age," I can live a godly life, self-controlled, and righteous? Yes!

Do you mean I don't have to follow my worldly passions and desires? Yes! You have hope because of Christ; you have hope because the grace of God teaches us to say "No" to sin!

God's grace means I am not hopeless; it means that God has not given up on me yet. Nor has He given up on you.

The Bible says that those who follow Christ by obeying His commands will know the truth and the truth will set them free. Do you want freedom? Follow Jesus and obey.

The world says, "You are nothing more than an animal. You can't help what you do. You were born that way. You're a man and men are just like that. You can't expect to think differently or act differently. Why put yourself through that? Just be who you are."





Do you know what? I'm glad that I have hope to be more than I am! Through Christ and His Holy Spirit, I can overcome the desires of my sinful nature and rid myself of my old sinful man! That's scriptural folks, not some watered-down soft religion that sounds more like what the world offers. Do we believe that Christianity offers something more, something better?

Freedom from sin! Hope for salvation! And Eternal Reward!

We have hope of life after this life is over – we have hope of heaven!

We have hope of overcoming sin – being freed from sin!

*character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

What does suffering help us learn to do? Persevere. It teaches us to hold on, to trust, and to keep on believing. It tests our faith and makes us stronger.

What does persevering create? Character. You think of all the times that you had to stick with it. All the times you've had to be patient. You didn't enjoy it at the time, did you? But the truth is – most likely, it made you a better person. It helped you grow.

When we persevere in the faith, trusting in God even when it's hard, He develops in us character. And what does character produce? Hope. Hope that God IS FAITHFUL! Hope that we will make it through!

Hope that this has a purpose! Suffering ultimately results in hope! Why? Because of our faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. Not only that, but our suffering isn't even worth comparing to the end result if we continue to trust in Jesus.

Paul says in Romans 8:18, 24-25 - *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.* [Verses 24-25 say] *For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

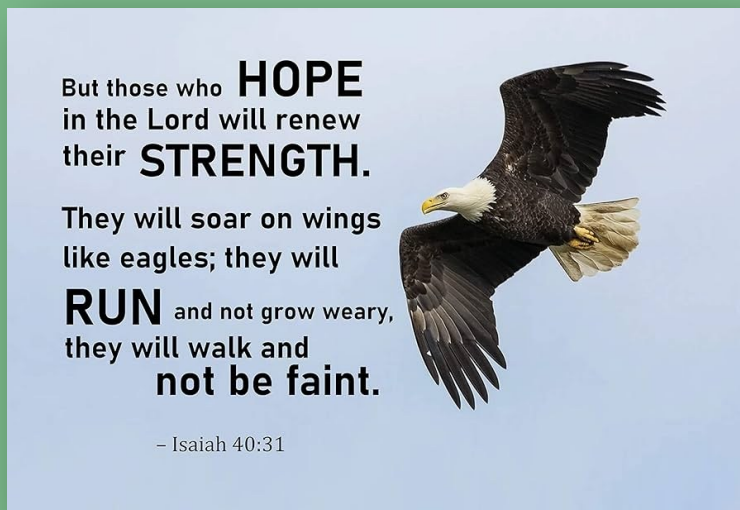
We have hope beyond our suffering. How can what the world provides give you that?

CONCLUSION:

Many are asking the question – When will this ever end? I've asked that question myself. For some, it seems like the end of the world (as we know it). And they don't feel fine.

I believe it's all a question of where you place your hope. If your hope is in the government, politicians, the economy, money, or the weather, you have to know that you'll be easily disappointed.

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And finally, we have the hope of being able to endure any trial or tribulation!

What hope does this world give you during times of suffering?

More vices to ignore the pain? More ways to escape and not deal with it?

But what if pain has a purpose? What if there was good that could be gained through suffering?

Romans 5:1-5 says...

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and*

If you put your hope in progress and the evolution of the human race, then I fear you will soon find out the hard truth.

If you put your hope in friends, family, or even yourself, you'll eventually be let down.

Or even if you put your hope in the Church, the people in the church, or in religion, you will face discouragement and disappointment as not everyone acts Christ-like.

But those who put their hope fully in the Lord will renew their strength. You will find a refuge, an anchor for your soul. If not for Jesus, all hope would truly be gone.

No one who knows what can happen at sea would go to sea in a vessel that carried no anchor, even though it was the greatest and most modern liner afloat. Why? because circumstances might arise when the hope of the ship and all her company would depend, not on the captain or the crew, the engines, the compass, or the steering gear, but on the anchor. When all else has fails, there is hope in the anchor.

During a stormy time in our country, in our lives, do you have an anchor? Have you anchored yourself to the rock of Jesus Christ? Let Him be what gets you through the storms of life.

~ Gary K. Fair

**Hope...**

**Sometimes that's all you have  
when you have nothing else.**

**If you have it,  
YOU HAVE EVERYTHING.**

**HOPE**  
IS THE  
**ONLY THING**  
**STRONGER**  
THAN  
**FEAR**



WE HAVE THIS  
**HOPE**  
as an anchor  
for the soul.  
A HOPE BOTH  
SURE & STEADFAST.

HEBREWS 6:19

**Everyone** needs to have something to believe in. We need hope.

For hope to be real it needs to be based in reality or put another way hope needs to be based on something obtainable.

There were many things in life that I HOPED for when I was younger, to play in the NFL.

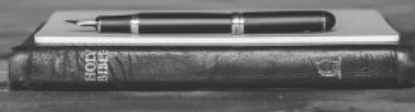
These hopes were not based on reality or something that I would be able to obtain.

There are other things we can place our hope in that are obtainable but can only be obtained with a lot of hard work and some blessings along the way.

Hope is found in the promises God has given us – promises of freedom from sin. We can find so much hope in Scripture through the gift of eternal life made possible through His son, Jesus Christ. No matter what trials, temptations or pain we may suffer, we can always hold onto the hope God extends to us.

The Christian hope is hope in God through Jesus Christ. It is the confident affirmation that God is faithful, that He will complete what He has begun. It is also, therefore, that confident expectation which waits patiently and ardently for God's purposes to be fulfilled.

## Everyone Needs Hope – No Matter Who You Are



All of us struggle at times with discouragement, with concerns that might build to worry or anxiety. Add the worldwide crisis into the mix, challenges with health, money, politics, emotional and relational stress, and it's not surprising that doubts and strife abound among people today. Despair and hopelessness are not uncommon even among us, the people of God. In those seasons of struggle, our hope seems to be quite inadequate and meager. This brief article is meant to encourage those of us who face moments of being downcast to fix our eyes upon Jesus.

Sometimes, it seems as though hope is just fading away. But the wonderful truth is that God has a remedy. That's not unusual; He is the God of Hope! His remedy is unique and distinct. His Holy Spirit wants to flood our lives with hope. I've found that anchoring my hope correctly saves a lot of heartbreak and fills my life with such great joy. There is no greater hope than the everlasting hope found in our Lord Jesus Christ and the sufficiency of His Word. Hope has a name, and it's Jesus Christ.

### Hope in the Person of Jesus...

Peter says, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."* (1 Pet. 1:3).

Those who trust in Jesus are born into a new family, a new kingdom, and a new life involving the God of hope. We are set free from living a life of placing hope in the world instead of Christ. We are a new creation, Christ is the gracious King, and God is our benevolent Father (2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 3:1; Heb. 4:14-16). All of these wonderful truths are anchored in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus, our living hope, is a person (1 Tim. 1:1; John 20:26-28).

All too often, we try to put our hope in things that the world offers: programs, events, outlines, life hacks, coping strategies, therapies, philosophies, false religions. These all can deliver temporary hope, but they leave us without satisfaction. Christians place their ultimate hope in a person we meet through humble repentance and faith. And this person is unlike any other: He's the preeminent one... He's the exalted one... He's the all-sufficient One... He is the glorious Christ!

**Hope in Jesus' Return...**

In Jesus, we have a blessed hope; He will return. Paul describes Christians as "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). How amazing is it that this life is not all that we have? It is easy to be so focused on day-to-day living that we forget that our Savior is coming to gather us to Himself. We will never be separated from Him or His holiness. We will spend eternity together.

How much smaller do some issues seem when compared to eternity? When we lose sight of eternity, we lose sight of what is important (2 Cor. 4:16-18; *Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*). When we lose sight of what's important, we chase after the temporary and cannot find satisfaction. We are left empty and hopeless. Instead, let us fix our hope in the love of Christ and the grace to be revealed when He returns.

**HOPE IS ALIVE**

**Hope: Christ in You...**

Colossians 1:27 says, "*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" Our hope is not far off from us. Christ isn't isolated from us—He's right there in our lives. Because Jesus is always with us and lives in us, we can be sure that He hears us when we pray. Jesus is intimately involved with us, everywhere, all the time. God isn't simply with us; He is orchestrating our lives for good. God is right in the middle of it with us. Even in difficult circumstances, we can have hope because God in His sovereignty has us right where He wants us to be. Whether it is to grow us in faith or draw us closer to Him, God has us where we are for a reason, and He is sustaining us through each difficulty (Rom. 5:1-5 - *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*).

When we are encompassed and surrounded by pressure-filled circumstances, our temptation is to put our hope in changing the situation. We tell ourselves, "If only "this" were to happen, then life would be better." Instead of focusing on our circumstances, we need to turn our eyes to the resurrected Christ. We find resurrected life in our resurrected Lord. Instead of trying harder and "pushing through," we must put our hope in Christ. That is what brings us living hope. There's no situation so torturous, impossible, agonizing, and depleting of vitality that the risen Lord cannot share His resurrection life with us and see us through it, and if He so wills, even deliver us out of that situation. May we, today, find help, hope, and comfort in Jesus Christ, our living hope.

The phrase "In Christ alone my hope is found" is a reference to John 14:6, which expresses Jesus as the sole and only path to hope. This verse is a non-negotiable requirement to be saved. Jesus is the chief cornerstone that is the foundation for the church...

John 14:6 - Jesus answered, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me.*"

**Jesus answered...**

This phrase indicates a direct response from Jesus, emphasizing His role as a teacher and guide. The Greek word for "answered" is "ἀπεκρίθη" (apekrithē), which implies a definitive and authoritative response. In the context of the Last Supper, Jesus is addressing His disciples' concerns about His impending departure, providing them with reassurance and clarity.

### **I Am...**

The phrase "I am" (Greek: "ἐγώ εἰμι," ego eimi) is significant, echoing the divine name revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14, **"I AM WHO I AM."** This self-identification by Jesus asserts His divinity and eternal existence, aligning Him with God the Father. It is a profound declaration of His nature and mission.

### **The Way...**

The Greek word for "way" is "ὁδός" (hodos), meaning a path or road. Jesus is not merely a guide but the path itself to God. In a historical context, roads were essential for travel and communication, symbolizing access and connection. Jesus as "the way" signifies the exclusive path to spiritual reconciliation and eternal life with God.

### **And the Truth...**

The term "truth" in Greek is "ἀλήθεια" (alētheia), denoting reality, certainty, and faithfulness. Jesus embodies the ultimate truth of God's revelation. In a world filled with deception and falsehood, Jesus stands as the absolute standard of truth, fulfilling the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament.

### **And the Life...**

The Greek word for "life" is "ζωή" (zōē), referring to both physical and eternal life. Jesus as "the life" indicates that He is the source of all life, both now and forever. This life is not merely biological but encompasses a spiritual vitality that begins with faith in Him and extends into eternity.

### **No One Comes to The Father...**

This phrase underscores the exclusivity of Jesus' role as the mediator between humanity and God. The Greek word "οὐδεὶς" (oudeis) means "no one," emphasizing that there is no alternative route to God. This exclusivity is a cornerstone of Christian doctrine, affirming that salvation is found only through Jesus Christ.

### **Except Through Me...**

The preposition "through" (Greek: "διὰ," dia) indicates the means or channel by which something is accomplished. Jesus is the sole mediator and means of access to the Father. This statement challenges any notion of pluralism or alternative paths to God, reinforcing the necessity of faith in Christ for salvation.

1. Jesus Christ is the central figure in this passage and He is speaking to His disciples, providing them with comfort and assurance about His role in their salvation and relationship with God the Father.
2. The Disciples are the immediate audience of Jesus' statement. They are seeking understanding and reassurance about Jesus' departure and the way to the Father.
3. The Father refers to God the Father, the ultimate destination and source of eternal life and truth, whom Jesus is revealing and providing access to through Himself.
4. The Upper Room is the setting of this discourse, where Jesus is sharing His final teachings and comfort with His disciples before His crucifixion.
5. The Way, the Truth, and the Life are key concepts in Jesus' declaration, each representing a unique aspect of His divine role and mission.

*~Continued On Page 14*

## Jesus' Seven "I am ..." Statements

John 6:48  
"I am the bread of life."

The Sustainer

He gives us all we need.

John 8:12  
"I am the light of the world."

The Illuminator

He brings the energy of light into our dark world.

John 10:9  
"I am the door."

The Mediator

He brings us where we otherwise could not go.

John 10:11  
"I am the good shepherd."

The Caretaker

He cares for us just like we need it.

John 11:25  
"I am the resurrection and the life."

The Life-giver

He brought us from death into life eternal.

John 14:6  
"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

The Leader

He guides us through life's difficult ways.

John 15:1  
"I am the true vine."

The Success-maker

He makes us unbelievably productive.



SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE



### Questions for Reflection...

Are you tempted to place your hope in anything outside of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ?

What do you currently think will bring you joy and satisfaction?

How have things in your life shown to disappoint you when you've placed your hope in them?

How has Christ shown Himself to be an object of hope?

~Robin Fortner

Some of you might recognize the title of this article as a snippet from a 1982 song by a popular southern rock band. Hope is a word we toss around without really thinking about what it really means. I.e. “ I hope \_\_\_\_\_ wins the Super Bowl “ , “ Hope my candidate wins the election ” , “ I hope I’ve saved enough money to retire ” While these things all sound good they show that we don’t really understand what hope is.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines hope as

# HOPE

noun A desire of some good , accompanied with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it , or belief that it is obtainable. Hope differs from wish and desire in this , that it implies some expectation of obtaining the good desired , or the possibility of possessing it. Hope therefore always gives pleasure or joy ; whereas wish and desire may produce or be accompanied with pain or anxiety.

Psychologists define “ Clinical Depression “ as the absence of hope, a feeling of hopelessness or despair.

According to a 2023 Gallup survey, 29% of US adults have been diagnosed with depression at some point in their lives. This is a nearly 10% increase from 2015.

Simply put, our society is losing hope. So why is this you ask? We have a focus problem. Where you look is where you end up so we must always be cautious of where we focus our attention.

Self

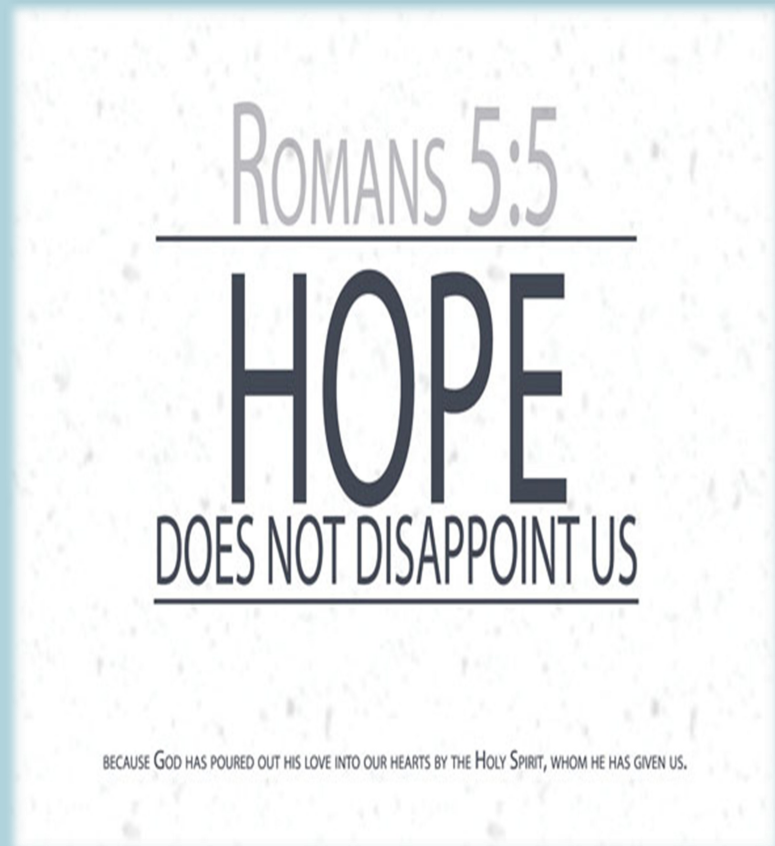
We live in a “ Me “ centered culture. We are bombarded daily with messages telling us to focus on ourselves. Remember the old McDonalds slogan “ You deserve a break today “ or Burger King “ Have it your way ” . The prosperity gospel teaches that “ Live your best life now “ but Jesus said , “ If anyone would come after me , he must deny HIMSELF and take up his cross and follow me ” . That is not a popular teaching in 21st century America.

There are dangers in becoming me focused . You begin to focus on your adversities , the dialogue in your head becomes a continuous loop replaying your problems both real and imagined until you feel no hope of escape.

That is when Satan the author of confusion steps in to keep your focus on yourself instead of Jesus. Or in your hopeless state he persuades you to take matters into your own hands instead of taking them to the throne room of the Father. The author of Hebrews writes

*14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* Hebrews 4:14-16 NASB 1995

Satan will use every trick he has to convince us that we can fix ourselves, that we are sufficient to fix all of our own problems, that is a lie , we can't. Sometimes the best thing we can do is go before the Father and say “ It's broke , I'm sorry , please fix this mess ” , then get out of his way and let him work.



The problem with both of these scenarios is that neither leads to biblical hope. So how do we acquire biblical hope? That answer is found in the 5th chapter of Paul's letter to the church at Rome

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, [we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

*6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved [by His life. 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. Romans 5:1-11 NASB 1995*

From this passage we see that tribulation brings perseverance. Perseverance brings character and character brings hope. Hope doesn't just occur, we can't speak it into existence and no man or woman can give it to us. Hope comes through a process. In studying this text I was greatly blessed by Gareth L Reese commentary on Romans. The following are excerpts from his work.

**Knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance.** The participle “knowing” is probably to be taken as casual, “because we know.” This then is a reason why Christians can be exhorted to rejoice in tribulations, because they know what tribulations can produce. “Step by step tribulation carries us upward to the great hope that does not put to shame.” ( Lenski, Romans p.337 ) This phrase suggests the first step. Tribulation keeps producing perseverance. The word translated “perseverance” is also translated “patience,” “endurance,” “fortitude,” and “steadfastness.” ( Arndt-Gingrich Lexicon, p.854) As each tribulation comes along, the Christian is pictured as bravely, courageously going on without faltering or complaining. The tribulation is looked on as an opportunity for growing, so the Christian sets about to come through the hard times victoriously.

**And Perseverance, proven character.** This is the second step. When the Christian has persevered, he finds that his Christian character has been built up or strengthened. “Proven character” is an attempt to translate dokime. The word sometimes has an active sense, as when it is used with the meaning “approved”, because the test was passed. ( Arndt-Gingrich, Lexicon, p. 201 ) Dokime is used of metal which has been passed through the fire so that everything base has been purged out of it. [ The English word ‘sterling’ of coinage that has been passed through the fire.] It describes something out of which every alloy of baseness has been eliminated. When affliction [tribulation] is met with fortitude,

out of a battle emerges a man stronger, and purer, and better and nearer to God.( Barclay, Romans, p.73)  
The “approval” may be God’s approval of the man’s character; God permits tribulations to come to test and purify our faith; when we persevere, God approves.





**And proven character, hope.** This is the third step in the series that tribulation is said to produce. Perseverance produces proven character, and proven character in turn produces hope. See the progressive nature of all this: first comes justification (along with peace and access into grace); then come tribulations; for the one who faces tribulation in the right spirit there comes perseverance; perseverance produces approval; and awareness of God's approval in turn results in the subjective, personal assurance concerning all the blessed future that God has promised to His children. How can a man know he is saved? Once he has been justified, if he patiently and triumphantly endures the tribulations God appoints, and emerges from them approved, he may well indulge in the hope of final acceptance. His faithfulness now virtually guarantees the end.

**And hope does not disappoint.** The hope the Christian has of the glory of God (5:2) will not prove to be just illusory. When one fails to receive the thing for which he has long hoped, he is greatly disappointed. If he has been telling others of his hope, when they learn his hope was deceptive, he will even feel shame when he is aware they know his hoped-for boon will not be obtained. Those who have been justified by faith, and who, step-by-step, have come to their hope of glory, will not be disappointed.

They shall certainly obtain what is hoped for. The Christian hope is such that it will be fulfilled. (Reese, New Testament Epistles Romans, p.184-185)

Hope is a confident expectation of future blessings. We are not born with it. No man or woman can give us hope. Hope can only be obtained by justification through faith in Christ, courageously persevering through tribulation which refines, purifies, and strengthens our character and produces approval by God who blesses us with a hope that will not disappoint us.

*~ Ron Smith*

**SUFFERING**

PRODUCES

**ENDURANCE**

PRODUCES

**H O P E**

## Opportunities To Connect With Us

Sunday School - 9:30 am

Morning Worship - 10:30 pm

Sunday Prayer Meeting - 5:30 pm A Special Time to Talk to God and Intercede on Others Behalf

Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Mid-Week ReCharge - 6:00 pm

## Monthly Events

**Held Every First Sunday Of The Month**

We encourage everyone to invite their friends and family to join us in worship. Excellent time for visitors.

.. FRIENDS & FAMILY ..  
**SUNDAY**

**\*\*Fellowship Luncheon Each First Sunday of New Quarter**

**SOS**

Serving Our Savior  
Women's Ministry Group

### S.O.S Women's Ministry

Meets Every First Tuesday Of The Month at 6 PM  
At Church Fellowship Area (*Handicap Accessible*)

Meal and or Snacks Provided



They plotted together to come and fight against us, but we prayed to our God and posted a guard on the wall, both day and night, to meet this threat.

Taken from Nehemiah 4:8-9

### WatchMen Men's Ministry

Meets Every Second Saturday Of The Month at 9 AM  
At Church Fellowship Area (*Handicap Accessible*)

*Physical and Spiritual Food Provided*



# The Princeton Path **FINDER**

A Publication of  
Princeton Christian Church

## Hope In Christ

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

*1 Peter 1:3*



PRINCETON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD ~ LOVING OTHERS ~ LOVING YOU

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### our mission



Engage with the lost

Establish in the faith

Equip to serve

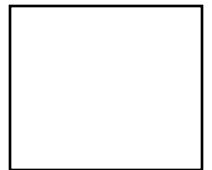
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