

An Anchor for Our Souls

Knowing that it would be such a vital experience for mankind, God made sure that the believer could count on Biblical hope. *"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us, which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil, where the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus..."* (Hebrews 6:18-20).

What are the two unchangeable things that God gives us as a firm foundation to support our hope? First God has promised to declare 'not guilty' those that come to him by faith like Abraham. That is confirmed by Jesus, our high priest, delivering his precious blood to the heavenly mercy seat thus securing our forgiveness of sin (verse 20). Secondly, God makes an oath, swearing by His own name, that He will do everything that He promised for us, including eternal life and all the spiritual blessings in the heavens. Since it is impossible for God to lie (verse 18) we can anchor our souls to these truths. We definitely have forgiveness of sins and the promise of heavenly rewards.

This 'anchor' becomes the basis for a believer's tranquil response to difficult circumstances. No matter what happens we know that we are forgiven and have heaven to look forward to! *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you..."* (1 Peter 3:15).

Hope as a Lifestyle

"Hope is faith holding out its hand in the dark"

- George Iles author 1852-1942

The believer abounding in hope (Romans 15:13) has learned that *"...whatever things were written"* in scripture

"...were written for our learning, that we...might have hope" (Romans 15:4). So they search the word of God, embrace every promise they find and teach them to every generation (Psalm 78:6-7) so that they may also experience hope.



The Christian who has hope as an anchor for their soul has a confidence and joy (Hebrews 3:6).

A hope-filled Christian is longing for the return of their glorified Lord knowing that when they see Him they will become like Him. The Apostle John adds, *"Every man that has this hope in him purifies himself even as he (Jesus) is pure"* (1 John 3:1-3). Our desire for the Lord's return includes our desire to live our earthly lives in a way that is pleasing to Him (1 John 4:17) so we can have unhindered boldness when we greet Him!

Blessed is the believer "who trusts in the Lord and whose hope the Lord is" (Jeremiah 17:7).

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"Hope"

How Christianity Works Series

By Pastor Curt Carter

Hope

"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given to us."

- Romans 5:1-5

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 1929-1968

In Job it says, ***"For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its tender branch will not cease"*** (Job 14:7). This statement came in the midst of Job's extreme tribulation and while his friends were wondering how a righteous man could suffer such loss.



Job's hope was strengthened by observing how the root systems of trees send up new sprouts, making a comeback when the tree is cut down. I think we often exercise hope as a "comeback" mechanism when we face difficult circumstances and loss. But how does Biblical **hope** work for the believer?

The Object of Hope

"For we are saved by hope..." (Romans 8:24a). Hope, along with grace and faith, is a complementary element of our salvation. The Apostle Paul even refers to our spiritual helmet as "the hope of salvation" (1 Thessalonians 5:8). We, who once had no hope and were without God in the world (Ephesians 2:12), now have an energized hope. For hope to function it needs to be focused on something or someone. For the believer that focus is directed at Jesus Christ. ***"But after the kindness and love of God, our Savior, toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, that, being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life"*** (Titus 3:4-7).

Real hope begins when we have become the recipient of Christ's precious blood (1 Peter 1:19) redeeming us from our sins. With a renewed life that includes an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, we can now have a firm foundation of hope based on nothing less than the power of the resurrection of Christ. ***"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead.."*** (Ephesians 1:18-20).

Resurrection and Hope

Hope for the future is based on what was accomplished in the past by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on our behalf. ***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"***(1 Peter 1:3-5).



Believing in the resurrection gives us a hope that we will receive all the good things that God has "laid up" for us in heaven (Colossians 1:5). While we wait, the presence of Christ in our lives becomes our **"hope of glory"** (Colossians 1:27). We look forward to His return with great desire of heart. ***"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ"*** (Titus 2:13). We comfort ourselves with the words of scripture that describe the epic return of Christ to gather His children together for eternity (1 Thessalonians 5:13-18).

So Biblical hope is based on the foundation of forgiveness of sins, the assurance of everlasting life, the blessing of our heavenly inheritance, and the promise of Christ's return in glory to transport us to our eternal home.