

HOPE

INTRODUCTION

The scriptures seldom use “hope” in a doubt-filled way. Instead, hope focuses its attention on God and fills us with eager expectation. No one who learns to hope in a biblical way will ever be overcome by disappointment but will be filled with patience, encouragement, and enthusiasm.

DISCUSSION

Do you have a problem with the above statement that, “No one who learns to hope in a biblical way will ever be overcome by disappointment...”

Why or why not?

EXPLANATION

Read Roman’s 15:13 and Colossians 1:27

What do you think it means to be ‘overcome by’ something as opposed to simply working your way through it?

Talk about a time when you have seen two people face the same circumstance yet have different reactions.

How can hope change a circumstance?

APPLICATION

Why is hope important in how we react to situations?

Name some things that people would not do, if hope were not involved.

How can living in hope be a reliance on God’s Spirit?

MISSION

How can we, as believers, change hope from a slogan to a truth?

In what ways can our lives, resting in Christ, restore hope to those who have lost it?

Can you name someone, specifically, you know needs hope?

How can you offer to show it to them?



HOPE

Matthew 14:31

Romans 12:12

Matthew 14:22-32

Romans 15:13

Colossians 1:27

Numbers 13:27-32

1 Samuel 17:32

Philippians 4:8

Matthew 12:34-35

Romans 12:2

Isaiah 26:3

Psalms 1:1-3

Romans 15:13

Week 1

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



HOPE

Matthew 14:31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Hope is more than a political saying to try to get people to vote for you. Hope is more than platitudes that will make people feel better. Hope is more than merely a word. Hope is gift that God gives to His people because it flows from His person.

When we use the word “hope” in normal conversation today we completely miss its meaning. We talk with a wavering, uncertain sound that resembles, “I hope I can make it.” We say this doubtfully, like we actually don’t really think we can make it. At times, we sense the same uncertainty in Scripture. In Luke 23:8, Herod “hoped” he would see Jesus do some miracle; in Acts 24:26, Felix “hoped” Paul might offer him a bribe; in the end, both men were disappointed.

The scriptures seldom use “hope” in this doubt-filled way. Instead, hope focuses its attention on God and fills us with eager expectation. No one who learns to hope in a biblical way will ever be overcome by disappointment but will be filled with patience, encouragement, and enthusiasm.

HOPE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

In the New Testament, the Greek words translated as hope are *elpizo* (verb) and *elpis* (noun). Of the eighty-five times these Greek words are found in the NT, only five are in the Gospels, ten are in Acts, and seventy are in the Epistles. They are seldom used in the Gospels, for Jesus, the object of the believer’s hope, was present with his disciples. It is Paul who most carefully examines hope and develops its meaning for the New Testament age.

In the NT, “hope” is always the expectation of something good, but it is also something we must wait for. In the New Testament, unlike the Old Testament, what we hope for is carefully explained. The mystery that the Old Testament does not solve is clearly laid out in the New Testament, and we are told about the wonders God has for His people.

- *Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”*
- *Colossians 1:27 “To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

For Peter, walking on water when he was focused on Jesus he walked, when he focused on the storm he sank.

- Hope got Peter out of the boat
- Trust held him up
- Fear sank him.

Single greatest difference between those who try and those who give up is hope. The death of hope paralyzes our spirit.

HOW DO WE DEVELOP MINDS THAT FOCUS ON CHRIST?

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”

Paul says FEED YOUR MINDS

Romans 12:2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Your mind will think about what it is most exposed to. What repeatedly enters your mind will occupy your mind. *Isaiah 26:3 “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you”*....it all depends on where your mind stays.

God is the source of all hope

- He seeks to fill us with joy and peace
- His desire is that I should overflow with hope
- That process is dependent on His power