

Hope! What is it really?

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Text: [Rom 8:24-25 KJV] 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, [then] do we with patience wait for [it].

[Job 17:15 KJV] 15 And where [is] now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it?

Hope is a confident expectation that something good is about to happen.

A Picture of Hope

14 year-old John Smith was prayed for by his mother Joyce who adopted him. God heard her prayer and responded.

He'd spent 15 minutes under water and another 40-plus minutes without a heartbeat after he was pulled from the lake. It was during that time that he was technically dead. "No spontaneous respirations. No heart tones. In essence, he was cold and he was dead. He was gone," said Dr. Kent Sutterer, the ER doctor on duty that day. The doctor approached Joyce and told her she could go up and talk to her son to say her goodbyes. "He was doing that because he was getting ready to call time of death," says Joyce. She walked up to the end of the bed and touched his feet, which were the only part of his extremities that were uncovered. She recalls them being cold and grey. It was then that she began to pray out loud desperately. "'Holy Spirit, please come and give me back my son.'

Breakthrough, a movie telling a true story of John Smith who drowned and had no heartbeat for an hour. For 15 minutes, John's lungs had filled with raw lake water, his heart had stopped beating, and he lay motionless at the bottom of Lake Sainte Louise. An hour after John's heart stopped, in the emergency room his Mom Joyce prayed, "Holy Spirit, I need You right now to come and breathe life back into my son!" Before this prayer, she professed, I believe in a God who can do miracles! Moments later his heart started back up. Seven days later the physicians removed John's ventilator and moved him out of intensive care. A week after that, John went home with no brain damage – despite no one ever surviving such a catastrophic medical failure before.

False Hope

[Job 27:8 KJV] 8 For what [is] the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?

Hope! What is it really?

[Job 31:24 KJV] 24 If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, [Thou art] my confidence;

Doctors, Politicians, Wealth, Power, and False Teachers can bring False Hope

[2Co 11:12 NLT] 12 But I will continue doing what I have always done. This will undercut those who are looking for an opportunity to boast that their work is just like ours.

[2Co 11:13-15 KJV] 13 For such [are] false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore [it is] no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

[2Pe 3:10 KJV] 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Hope Strengthens Us – Three Things

[Psa 16:8-9 KJV] 8 I have set the LORD always before me: because [he is] at my right hand, I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

[Psa 31:24 KJV] 24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

[Gal 5:5 KJV] 5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

[Col 1:5 KJV] 5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Hope in his Mercy Lifts me Up

[Psa 33:18, 22 KJV] 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD [is] upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; ... 22 Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

I Don't Deserve His Mercy. I humbly expect what I don't deserve because He is Faithful.

Hope in Him, Health of my Countenance.

[Psa 42:11 KJV] 11 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, [who is] the health of my countenance, and my God.

I will Hope in My God Continually

[Psa 71:5, 14 KJV] 5 For thou [art] my hope, O Lord GOD: [thou art] my trust from my youth. ... 14 But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.

Lost Hope Brings you down

[Pro 13:12 KJV] 12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but [when] the desire cometh, [it is] a tree of life.

Alton Garrison's Mom

Hope! What is it really?

Alton's Dad had been miraculously saved, empowered by God, Healed from paralysis, Pastored for around 32 years. He had an 8 year bout with Alzheimer's. Praying and taking care of her husband brought her hope meter to the bottom. She felt like God had deserted her.

[2Co 12:7-9 KJV] 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

How can you lose Hope

Reacting Only to What you See Romans 4:19

[Rom 4:19 KJV] 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

[2Co 5:7 KJV] 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Focusing more on the problem than on the promise.

[2Co 1:20 KJV] 20 For all the promises of God in him [are] yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Impatience – Ishmael

[Psa 83:4-6 KJV] 4 They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from [being] a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. 5 For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: 6 The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes;

Alton Garrison said, We are Microwave Christians serving a Crock-Pot God

Our Hope helps us wait.

[1Th 1:3 KJV] 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

[1Th 5:8 KJV] 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

What do we Hope for?

[Psa 130:7 KJV] 7 Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD [there is] mercy, and with him [is] plenteous redemption.

[Psa 147:11 KJV] 11 The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

[Pro 10:28 KJV] 28 The hope of the righteous [shall be] gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

We have a living Hope.

Hope! What is it really?

[1Pe 1:3 KJV] 3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

[Rom 15:13 KJV] 13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

God's Word Provides Hope

[Psa 78:7 KJV] 7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

[Psa 119:49, 81, 114 KJV] 49 ZAIN. Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. ... 81 CAPH. My soul fainteth for thy salvation: [but] I hope in thy word. ... 114 Thou [art] my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

[Rom 15:4 KJV] 4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

[Col 1:23 KJV] 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and [be] not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, [and] which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Remember Who Gave You Your Lively Hop

[2Th 2:16 KJV] 16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

[Tit 1:2 KJV] 2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

[Heb 6:18 KJV] 18 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:

God Expects us to Pass Our Hope along to the Next Generation

[Psa 78:1-7 KJV] 1 [[Maschil of Asaph.]] Give ear, O my people, [to] my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: 3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide [them] from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. 5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6 That the generation to come might know [them, even] the children [which] should be born; [who] should arise and declare [them] to their children: 7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: [Lam 3:26 KJV] 26 [It is] good that [a man] should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

Will Your Hope Perish like the Unjust? Don't Give Your Hope away.

[Pro 11:7 KJV] 7 When a wicked man dieth, [his] expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust [men] perisheth.

Hope! What is it really?

[1Co 15:19 KJV] 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

[1Co 15:19 NLT] 19 And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

Hold on to your Hope til the end.

[1Pe 1:13 KJV] 13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

[Heb 3:6 KJV] 6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

[Heb 6:11 KJV] 11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

[1Jo 3:2-3 KJV] 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Don't Walk Away from Your Hope.

[Jer 18:11-12 KJV] 11 Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good. 12 And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.

Abraham Had Hope.

[Rom 4:18 KJV] 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Paul pointed to the Hope of the Promise.

[Act 26:6 KJV] 6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:

Number 1 Reason to Put Your Hope in God. Is anything too hard for Him?