



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### Hope!

**Scripture:** Romans 15:13 - 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.

Biblical hope is the anticipation of a favorable outcome under God's guidance. It is filled with assurance, certainty, and trust. Hope is an expectation with certainty that God will do what He has said. It is more than a wish or desire. Hope is the confidence that what God has done for us in the past guarantees our participation in what God will do in the future.

To have hope in God you must be like the wise man who built his house upon a rock. It means to be a hearing, responding disciple, not a phony, superficial one. Practicing obedience becomes the solid foundation to weather the storms of life. James 1:22-24 says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." The unbeliever builds his hope on the world, therefore they will be headed for destruction, because of thoughtlessness. We that are saved have a responsibility to help others stop and think about where they put their hope in and to point out the consequences of ignoring Christ's message.

God is the type of leader who stirs us to move ahead, someone who believes we can do the task He has given and who will be with us all the way. He knows the future, and His plans for us are good and full of hope. As long as God, who knows the future, provides our agenda and goes with us as we fulfill His mission, we have boundless hope. This does not mean we will be spared pain, suffering, or hardship, but that God will see us through to a glorious conclusion. God's love is not static or self-centered; it reaches out and draws others in. When you love someone dearly, you are willing to give freely to the point of self-sacrifice. God paid dearly with the life of his Son, the highest price He could pay. Jesus accepted our punishment, paid the price for our sins, and then offered us the new life He had bought for us. When we share the Gospel with others, our love must be like Jesus'—willingly giving up our own comfort and security so that others might join us in receiving God's love.

When you feel all of life crushing you and cannot go another step, remember that we can put our trust and hope in God and call upon God to renew your strength. So, take time out to listen to God. Wait upon the Lord and expect Him to strengthen you and raise you above life's distractions and difficulties. Listening to God enables you to build up your faith and helps us to be prepared for when He speaks to us, be patient when He asks us to wait, and trust Him to fulfill the promises found in His Word.

While we can be confident of our salvation, we look ahead with hope and trust toward that complete change of body and personality that lies beyond this life, when we will be like Christ (1 John 3:2). As children of God, we are not left to our own resources to cope with problems. Even when you don't know the right words to pray, the Holy Spirit prays with and for us, and God answers. With God helping us to pray, we don't need to be afraid to come before Him. The Holy Spirit will plead for you "**according to the will of God.**" Then, when you bring your requests to God, trust that He will always do what is best.

God works out all things—not just isolated incidents—for our good. Therefore, we have our hope and trust in God, not life's treasures; we look to our security in heaven, not on earth; we learn to accept, not resent, pain and persecution because they know God is with us. Because God loves you, you can show your trust in Him by talking about all your feelings and circumstances with Him — the good and hard — through prayer. Don't let your emotions rule your life; bring them to God so He can help you address them. He is not disappointed or frustrated by your struggles, doubts or pain.

In the sports world there is a phrase: "The best offense is a good defense." In the spiritual battle around us, God is our strength and shield. He is our defense against all that would harm us. If we trust in Him, He will certainly defend us from the vicious attacks of our enemies. Prayer can release our tensions in times of emotional stress. Trusting God to be our rock, salvation, and defense changes our entire outlook on life. No longer are we held captive by hurtful treatment from others. We are released to follow an unchanging God. **Hope is an Eager Expectation.** Hope builds us up as we wait on God. Hope releases joy, and the joy of the Lord becomes our source of strength. Our hope is in God because He can change what seems unchangeable in the midst of crisis. Hope in Jesus is always rewarded.

**Our Hope is Built on Nothing Less, Than Jesus' blood and righteousness!**