

God of Hope

What Does the Bible Say about Hope? Hope is defined as to desire with expectation of obtainment; to expect with confidence. Some words that mean the same as hope are trust, expectation, longing, dream, optimism, and desire. Of course, the opposite of hope is despair.

People can survive without much food, water, shelter, clothing, transportation, and even affection. But without hope—many of us would've been in the grave by now. Hope is the essence of the Christian faith. We hope to go to heaven one day, we hope that God hears and answers our prayers, and we hope that our labor isn't in vain. But what if hope was unnecessary for our faith? What if we could just look up and see heaven physically right in front of us? What if we never had to persevere in faith and prayer? What if everything you ever wanted just happened the way you planned?

"For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?" (Romans 8:24). പ്രത്യാശയാലല്ലാ നാം രക്ഷിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. കാണുന്ന പ്രത്യാശയോ പ്രത്യാശയല്ല; ഒരുത്തൻ കാണുന്നതിനായി ഇനി പ്രത്യാശിക്കുന്നത് എന്തിനു? (റോമർ 8:24) Without hope we can never fully trust in God with all our hearts. Hope is grasping for what we can't see, but we believe because of the assurance in our hearts from God. Hope—"This word may refer in two verses of Proverbs to a confidence in a future life. In Proverbs 10:28 "The hope of the righteous *will be* gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish" the joyful of the righteous is contrasted with the no hope of the wicked.

The worldly perception of hope is based on a person's own desires—what he or she wants to come true. It is hope that must come from within. What are some examples of that kind of thinking? (examples are: hope for a raise in salary, hope that our favorite team will win the World Series or hope that our job will last, etc.) Why do you think this idea of hope is faulty? This kind of hope may let a person down, things may not work out as we had planned, and there may be factors that we didn't—or couldn't—take into account.

The biblical perception of hope is a fixed expectation based on the promises of God in His Word. It is hope that comes from outside of us. This kind of hope is not based on what we know or do; it is based on who we know—Christ. It is the guarantee that our expectations based on God's promises will be fulfilled. This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, (Hebrews 6:19) ആ പ്രത്യാശ നമുക്കു ആത്മാവിന്റെ ഒരു നങ്കൂരം തന്നെ; അതു നിശ്ചയവും സ്ഥിരവും തിരശ്ശീലകകത്തേക്കു കടക്കുന്നതുമാകുന്നു. (എബ്രായർ 6:19)

This hope will endure. It is unshakable because it is based on the sure Word of God and the changelessness of God Himself. This hope must take into account God's time schedule, which is often different than ours. The second thing to observe in Proverbs 13:12 "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But desire fulfilled is a tree of life" it is the postponement of hope. Hope may be delayed by a number of things. Promises and our expectations may not be based on reality. If our hope is the worldly kind, that delay may lead to despair. Despair may give way to depression, which eventually leads to a sense of hopelessness. Since this kind of hope is not based on any real promises, there is nothing to hold onto until the answer comes. The person without the promises of God to hold onto is like a ship without an anchor in a stormy sea, which may eventually lead a person to give up on life and end it by his own hand.

Now let's look at the promise of hope. King David experienced many times when life was hard and it seemed outwardly that there was no hope. But David repeatedly placed his confidence in God and His ability to deliver him either out of or in the midst of his situation. (Psalm 31:24; 33:18; 34:1-8, 17-18; 38:15; 62:5-6; and 130:1-8). David is not the only one in the Bible who faced hard times with an expectation that God would provide for him. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, conveys the promise of God to bring hope. (Jeremiah 29:11.) Later, he recalls that promise as he experienced difficult times. (Lamentations 3:19-24.) The Apostle Paul, who experienced much hardship, said that he did not lose hope. (2 Cor. 4:7-9.) Can you think of a specific promise of our Lord to those who are crushed by the weight of despair? Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30). The promise of hope is a consistent theme throughout God's Word. A true biblical understanding of hope will empower a person to have courage in the face of a seemingly hopeless situation. Have any of you found yourself in what seemed like a hopeless situation and God provided for you? "Is—there—any—hope?" "Hope—in—God—alone." Why are you cast down, O my soul? And *why* are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him *For* the help of His countenance. (Ps 42:5)

The last part of Psalm 30:5 says, “Weeping may spend the night, but there is joy in the morning.” When everything seems hopeless, God knows all about it and will bring joy out of it if we will wait patiently for Him. Here are some things people are saying; some beautiful words of hope.

Hope brings security

“You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety” (Job 11:18).

The eternal hope in Christ means that you’re completely secure in God’s hand in this world and the next.

When the storms of life are raging, your anchor is the hope that God is in control.

Hope brings confidence

“No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame” (Psalm 25:3).

Because of our hope in the blood of Jesus, believers don’t have to worry about the shame of our sins. We confess our sins and are covered by His sacrifice. Not because of our good works, but through the grace of God. Christians can come boldly to the throne of grace and seek God’s help because of hope.

Hope brings praise to God

“As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more” (Psalm 71:14)

In the darkest hours and the deepest pain, Christians can still have hope. Believers in Jesus Christ can praise Him even when everything around them looks bleak and dry. Our hope in God reveals that He is in control and He uses everything for our good.

Hope brings eternal value

“There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off” (Proverbs 23:18)

No matter what is going on around us—there is a future hope in Christ. He’s not only working in us at this very moment, but He’s also working out our destiny in His kingdom. Even in our physical death, we have hope of eternal peace, joy, and comfort.

Hope brings strength

“But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31).

God has planted hope in the heart of every believer so that we can build a strong relationship of love and trust with Him. The demands of this life can beat us down spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Yet remembering the hope we have in Christ to overcome evil with good, to bless and not curse, and to draw on His word and His Spirit gives us renewed energy to face the world.

Hope brings goodness

“The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him” (Lamentations 3:25).

The favor of God rests on those who put their hope in Him. He gives us the ability to excel in our gifts beyond our expectations. Goodness from the Lord is evident in our speech and actions because of the hope we have in our hearts.

Hope brings joy

“Be joyful in hope” (Romans 12:12)

Our outward circumstances may be exceptionally painful and difficult to deal with, but because of hope we still have joy. The hope in Christ stirs up our joy so that we can praise the Lord in song and dance even in the midst of hardship.

Hope brings love

“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” (Romans 5:5).

Hope reveals the love of God that is within every believer. We are moved by the Spirit of God to show love to others in the hope that they will come to know Christ. Hope is the filter in which love is expressed in action and not just words.

Hope brings faith

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1).

The evidence or assurance of our faith in God is hope. We don’t have to see Him to believe that He exists. The Spirit gives witness to our spirit that hope in God is a sure foundation that we can build our lives on.

Where is your Hope?

Hope can be lost and found. It can be as tiny as an atom and still pack a powerful punch in the eye of despair. Hope is the gentle tug within the heart of every Christian to comfort us when we are tossed to and fro by trials. Hope is a powerful stimulant for the broken hearted and dejected.

“anyone who is among the living has hope—even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!” (Ecclesiastes 9:4).

God has planted hope in the heart of every believer so that we can build a strong relationship of love and trust with Him. Where is your hope? Let it grow and nourish in the word of God everyday. “Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD. Psalm 31:24; Psalm 33:18, 20, 22; Psalm 34:1-8, 17-18; Psalm 38:15; Psalm 62:5-6; Psalm 119:81; Psalm 130; Psalm 146:5-6

Blessed Hope

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The Christian's 'blessed hope', referred to in Titus 2:13, is the imminent, personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ. "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" The word 'hope' in the New Testament does not imply uncertainty; it means a 'joyful and confident expectation', based upon the promise of our Lord Himself (John 14:3). The signs of the times suggest that the coming of the Lord is soon; the Bible clearly indicates that His coming will be personal.

Why every Christian should be familiar with and should rejoice in the 'blessed hope' of the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We must beware of becoming more occupied with the event than with the Person who is coming! Throughout the Word of God there are scores of details concerning the time, manner and place of His return; but the most thrilling aspect of the whole subject is that HE is coming - our Lord Jesus Himself!

(1) The Saviour's Declaration - John 14:3 - And if I go and prepare a place for you,...

(2) The Angel's Confirmation - Acts 1:9-11 - This *same* Jesus, ..will so come

(3) The Apostle's Explanation - 1 Thes 4:16-18 - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven

As it is the Lord Himself who is coming, we as His followers should not only be familiar with the fact but also be on the look out for Him.

Every Faithful Christian is going to Heaven, but how are we to get there? The 'spirits' of the 'dead in Christ' are already with Christ, (Philippians 1:23); but one day we shall have a glorified body like His own. (2 Cor 5:3-4) and united forever with the Lord (1CO15:35) How and when will this take place? 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 makes it clear that the resurrection of the dead in Christ and the transformation and translation of all living believers takes place at the second coming of Jesus Christ. As we read in IJO3:2-3, when He appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as He is pure. It is necessity of the Bride of Christ to be pure and holy as our Groom is Pure.

If we believe that Jesus is coming again, we shall be different in what we are and do. There is no greater motivation to holy living than the truth that at any moment He may return. When we believe this it is:- WATCH (Matthew 25:13) SEPARATION (Titus 2:11-14) PATIENCE (James 5:7-8) CONTINUE IN HIM (1 John 2:28) DILIGENCE (Revelation 3:11) PURITY (1 John 3:2-3) How carefully we would live and serve if we did so in the light of His coming!

The truth of the second coming of Christ spurs us on to faithfulness and gives our service a sense of urgency; moreover, it safeguards us against a wrong objective in Christian service. If we believe Christ is coming, we shall pray and work for the evangelisation of the world and the completion of the Church (Acts 15:14-18), which is God's plan for this dispensation of Grace.

The second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is the only solution to the problems and perplexities of our collapsing civilisation. God has a solution Lord Jesus, will come from the throne of Glory and will set up His reign and rule of righteousness, and all the signs of the times point to the fact that His coming is very near.

It is significant that our Lord's promise to return is set within the context of His promise of Heaven and His desire that we should have hearts free from trouble (John 14:1-3). We need to understand and apply this cure for troubled hearts. Is there anything more comforting than this glorious truth of His assured and near return? (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18) It is greatly needed to be awoken to the nearness of our Lord's Return, along with preparing you to the need of living daily for Christ in order that we may win Christ whom we have not seen, we love Him. We hope for what we do not see yet. (ROM8:25)"May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love, and into the patient waiting for His return"(2TH3:5)

The 'blessed hope' of the Christian is the *imminent, personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ*. To each one of us who loves Him Jesus says, 'Yes, I am coming soon', to which our hearts respond, 'Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!' (Revelation 22:20).

Now may the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.(Romans 15:13)