

We Cannot Live Without Hope

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Romans 5:2-5 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein 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 Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 8:19-20 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

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

- I. In this spiritual warfare between good and evil we have a jugular vein that the devil goes for every time, and that is our HOPE.
 - A. Hope is imperative to our Christian faith and walk; we cannot make it without it.
 - B. The devil is relentless in trying to rob us of hope and leave us in despair over every aspect of our life.
 - C. When we turn lose of hope we have nothing left; everything else depends upon our hope.
 - D. Life is full of trouble; adversity, affliction, loss, grief, disappointment, frustration, betrayals, pain, and much more, are common to all men.
 - E. Most people have their hope in this life and not in eternity, so their hope is very fragile.
 - F. Even most of those who profess to have their hope in Christ really just have hope that He will fix all their messes and remove all their troubles and difficulties in this life here and now.
 - 1. If they pray and He does not make everything ok immediately their hope is gone.
 - G. The child of God has real hope that abides.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

- 1. “Abide” means that faith, hope, and charity live there, in you, and do not come and go.
 - 2. What if we lost faith like we lose hope?
 - 3. What if we lost charity like we lose hope?
 - 4. What if we became faithless on a regular basis like we become hopeless on a regular basis.
- H. The loss of hope brings despair and hopelessness, which causes people to give up on life and spiral off into hell forever.
- I. Hope is really what the lost world around us is looking for, but they are looking for hope in this life, and will never find it here in this world.
- J. Paul repeatedly stated that it was for the hope he had that he was persecuted and in bonds.

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

- II. Watch out for the devil when it comes to your hope.
 - A. Do not let him hide your hope from you.
 - B. Do not let him steal your hope from your mind.
 - C. He is always ready at hand to make you believe that you have no reason to hope.
 - D. But his accusations, lies, and suggestions are always based on things of this life and this world.
 - E. He cannot convince you that you have no hope for eternity, but he can convince you that your life is going to be miserable here.
 - 1. He can whisper to you that nothing is going to work, no one is going to be faithful, everything is going to turn out bad, and the whole future is just dark and hopeless.
 - 2. He can take away your hope for lost loved ones to ever be saved by just getting you to focus on the state they seem to be in right now.
 - 3. He can take away your hope for your earthly future by convincing you that no matter how hard you try things are just going to get worse and you are going to end up broke and ruined.
 - 4. He can take away your hope in this life by sowing fear in your heart about sickness or death in yourself or your children, or another loved one.
 - F. If the devil can make you focus on your hope in this life here on earth he can have you on the ropes very quickly.
 - 1. He has you by the neck, so to speak, and will not turn loose until you look back to God, see this life for what it is, which is vanity, and get your eyes back on God and eternity again.
- III. How can a Christian lose his hope?
 - A. The fact of the matter is that he cannot lose his hope if it is truly anchored in the right place.
 - 1. The devil can get an advantage over us by drawing our attention away from God and eternity and making us focus on the here and now.
 - 2. His aim is to get us focused on the cares of this life and the disappointment, frustration, and hurtful things so we forget God and fall into despair over the things of this life.
 - B. Those that do not know God are without hope in this world.
 - 1. They cannot find real hope because they are looking for it in the wrong place – this life.
 - 2. We were there with them before Christ saved us and brought us out from among them.

Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

- 3. We tried, like they do, to hope in this life and this world, that everything would be just like we wanted, and free from sin, death, trouble of any kind.
- 4. Just as every person who ever lived before us we found no hope because it was always dashed to pieces by the troubles of life and the sin of others, as well as our own.

- C. Many people miss true salvation because they are deceived as they are entering in that hope in Christ means that He will make our life wonderful and free from all trouble and unpleasant things here on this earth.

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

- 1. We end up being of all men most miserable because our hope is not in Christ himself, but in what we think He will do for us here and now.
- D. Now the true child of God who has placed his faith in Christ, has hope in Christ, not in this world.
 - 1. His hope is in eternity where God has promised to make all things just like we want them to be here and now on this earth.
 - 2. Earth is cursed with sin and will never be the proper habitation or environment for the child of God.
- E. The true believer sees life here as a temporary sojourn; he is a pilgrim passing through a land where God is hated and rejected and blamed for all the misery caused by man's sin.
 - 1. He always finds rest in the hope that he has beyond this life.
- F. This is the hope that the lost must be able to see in us and find for themselves or they will die without hope.
- G. No matter what happens in this life, no matter the loss, the suffering, the failures, nothing can take away my hope if it is truly in God.

Hebrews 6:17-19 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: 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 stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Hosea 2:14-15 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor **for a door of hope**; and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

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

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.

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

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.