

III. GROW THRU **SUFFERING** (17:5b-10)

A. Suffering **matures** hope.

*“3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;
4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*
Romans 5:3-4

“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”
II Timothy 2:3

B. Next Step #3:

Have a positive attitude toward your trials.

“10 But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside.

12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.”
Job 23:10-12

NEVER GIVE UP!!

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Keeping Your Hope Alive
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INTRODUCTION

A. Welcome to Easter Weekend!!

*“5 But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.
6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”*
Matthew 28:5-6

B. Today we begin a brand new teaching series called Never Give Up, a verse by verse study of I & II Thessalonians.

“I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.”
I Thessalonians 5:27

“For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.”
I Thessalonians 3:8

“Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.”
II Thessalonians 2:15

C. **Text:** Acts 17:1-10 (Pew Bible/Pg.5/New Testament)

The word “hope” is mentioned **121** times in the Bible.

“remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,”
I Thessalonians 1:3

HOW TO KEEP YOUR HOPE ALIVE

I. STUDY THE **BIBLE** (17:1-2)

A. Bible **reveals** hope.

“3 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”
Romans 15:4

“3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”
Isaiah 53:3-5

B. Next Step #1:

Attend the Never Give Up teaching series and join a small group.

“23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:23-25

II. TRUST IN **CHRIST** (17:3-5a)

A. Christ **provides** hope.

*“3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,”*
I Peter 1:3-4

*“3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,
4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”*
Romans 1:3-4

B. Next Step #2:

Believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

“18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”
I Peter 1:18-21