

THE NEED FOR HOPE

I. PEOPLE NEED HOPE

If you are working, you need to know there are benefits. If you are sick, you need to know you will get better. If you are running a race, you need to know there is a prize. If there are trials, you need to know there is an end in sight. You need hope, you need to know life is worth living, and hope gives you a reason to live.

II. THE MOST IMPORTANT KIND OF HOPE IS GODLY HOPE

A. There are earthly hopes, but godly hope is certain, is guaranteed by God to happen.

B. God wants you to put your hope in Him, in His word and promises. Psalm 23:6

C. Faith and hope go together, for hope means you are believing that God will bless you in the future. Hebrews 11:1 says, "*Faith is the assurance of things hoped for.*"

D. The Old Testament saints had faith in God for the present, and faith in God for the future, which means they had hope for the future. Hebrews 11:10-16, 32-39

E. Both believing Jews and Christians have hope. God's promises to the Jews will be fulfilled and realized in conjunction with His promises to the church. Luke 21:20-33

III. WHY IS HOPE IMPORTANT?

A. Hope helps us to be holy and not be worldly. If we are sinning, we are forgetting why we are here, and how it relates to the future, to the hope God has for us. Hope helps us to be holy today for we know it counts for eternity. 1 John 3:3, Colossians 3:3-4

B. Hope helps us to endure, to persevere, to get through the tough times of life. "*Endurance inspired by hope...*" 1 Thessalonians 1:3. Galatians 6:9

C. Hope helps us to not grieve like people in the world. Our hope that we will soon be in heaven with Jesus and with loved ones helps us to not grieve too much, and to not think we will never see them again. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

D. Hope is an anchor for the soul. Hope gives us perspective, for it helps us see ahead, to see past our problems, to the wonderful future we have. It keeps our heart steady and grounded in the midst of the storm. Hebrews 6:18-19, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

E. Hope protects our minds, for it is our helmet of salvation, and helps us to think correctly. The only way to live rightly during our short life on earth is to think about our entire life, our eternal life. 1 Thessalonians 5:9

F. Hope helps us focus on the person of Jesus Christ. Life for the Christian is all about Jesus, now and forever. In the future we will be able to perfectly experience the life and love of Christ. Philippians 1:21, 1 Timothy 1:1, Titus 1:2, Colossians 1:27

IV. HOW DO WE GET HOPE?

A. You need to be saved. If you are saved, then you know you have eternal life and are going to heaven, and for the first time, you have hope. Romans 5:2-5

B. You need to know what God's word says about your hope, your future, for it is His word that tells you what this hope is. Romans 15:4, Hebrews 12:22-24

C. You need to believe what God's word says about hope. The godly saints of Hebrews 11 believed God's promises about the future. Hebrews 11:10-16

D. You need to endure. As you are enduring the trial, then God increases your hope, your hope for the future grows, your longing to be in heaven grows. Romans 15:2-5

E. You need to pray. Having hope is a work of God in your heart, and so pray for yourselves and others, that God will give you hope. Ephesians 1:18, Romans 15:13

V. WHAT IS HOPE?

You will be in heaven. You will be with Jesus. You will be with all the believers. You will receive a brand new body. You will reign with Christ during the millennial kingdom. You will receive an inheritance. You will be praising and worshiping God. You will experience wonderful pleasures. You will be given a new home in heaven.

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE
IN BELIEVING, SO THAT YOU WILL ABOUND IN HOPE
BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Romans 15:13

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Why do faith and go hope go together? Why is faith necessary to have hope?
3. Why do you think hope is so important? Is it helping you to be a godly Christian?
4. What do you need to do to get hope?
5. What aspect of your hope encourages and excites you the most?
6. How is your hope? Is it a vital part of your life?
7. Are you thinking every day about the future God has in store for you?