

What does Hope Feel Like?

- What is it?
- Where does it come from?
- And how can I get it?

## **WHAT IS IT**

Obvious place to start is with a Definition of Hope

What is hope? Is it a wishy washy maybe or a kind of unsure optimism? The modern idea of hope is “to wish for, to expect, but without certainty of the fulfillment;

It to desire very much, but

– and here is the deal breaker --

with no real assurance of getting your desire.”

- Ever hoped for a certain gift or toy for Christmas and didn't get it?
- Ever hoped or longed for a certain event to happen or maybe not happen and that hope went unfilled?
- Ever hoped for that special person to take notice that you are alive and to look your way?

There are a 1001 things that we “hope” for, wish for, think might happen, sometimes desperately . . . and more often than not, our hopes are dashed to the ground.

On July 4, 1952 Florence Chadwick attempted to swim the Catalina Channel. She had previously swam the English Channel (26 miles). The tenders in the boats around her fired shots to keep the sharks away from her. After 15 hours in the numbing cold water, surrounded by dense fog, she signaled to be taken out of the water. What she discovered soon after was that she was only about a ½ mile from the shoreline. She said, “If I had been able to see through the fog. I never would have given up in the water.”

This is not the “HOPE” that we have as Christians; this is not the “HOPE” that is held out to us as sons and daughters of Jehovah

When you look at the Hebrew and Greek words translated “hope” and look at the context of their usage, hope is an indication of certainty.

“Hope” in Scripture means “a strong and confident expectation.” Though archaic today in modern terms, hope is akin to trust and a sure confidence of outcome.

Parade Magazine wrote a story of self-made millionaire Eugene Land, who greatly changed the lives of a sixth-grade class in East Harlem. Mr. Lang had been asked to speak to a class of 59 sixth-graders.

What could he say to inspire these students, most of whom would drop out of school? He wondered how he could get these predominantly black and Puerto Rican children even to look at him.

Scrapping his notes, he decided to speak to them from his heart. "Stay in school," he admonished, "and I'll help pay the college tuition for every one of you." At that moment the lives of these students changed. For the first time they had hope.

One student said, "I had something to look forward to, something waiting for me. It was a golden feeling." The school had a notoriously high drop-out rate before graduation—but not this class -- nearly 90 percent of that class went on to graduate from high school.

What is hope? It that something that changes our perspective, or at least it should. It should be infused in every breath we take in, in every step we make, in every moment of every day, it should be the lens through which we see our every waking moment.

It is not Walt Disney's magical idea of wishing upon a star and watching our dreams come true – it is a very Biblical word that is linked to trusting in God. We have 'hope' because we trust in the character of God and what He is doing. Rest assured that God's plans are always bigger than our own personal agenda; Apostle Paul says this in Romans 5:3-5,

- And not only this, but we also **exult** in our tribulations; knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint...

But, often, our daily lives are not lived out in that kind of powerful, confident expectation is it?

Maybe, we know intellectually we have the hope of heaven, the hope of being in God's presence one day, but on day to day basis, our outside living doesn't match up with our inside thinking.

Our grand-son Benjamin said one day: Mimi -- You know what is great about imagination? You always got your guns.

You know what is great about hope?

You will always have a sense of security:

[Job 11:18](#)

**18** You will be secure, because there is hope;

You will always have a source of strength to carry you through,

[Isaiah 40:31](#) NIV

**31** but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.

Disappointment is temporary

[Romans 5:5](#) And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

And Shame will never silence or defeat you

No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame Ps 25:3

That is what Hope is.

There is something transcendence about Hope that in the darkness moments of our life—it blooms up in our hearts and minds and gives light where there was none before

### **WHERE DOES IT COME FROM:**

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; My hope comes from Him. Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; He is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:5-8 (NIV)

It shouldn't be any surprise that it doesn't originate from us – but is our response to what God has done and is doing . . .

Break the verses down -- What do we learn from these verses that helps us understand God as the source of Hope?

1<sup>st</sup> – God is shelter

- Not talking about a lean to or a church building or some other place with doors and windows – I'm talking about SHELTER
- Rock, Fortress, Mighty Rock, refuge
- Those words convey to us that He is Shelter, that He provides a place of safety and security, a place where nothing is going to touch you; a place where you find rest
- It's in this kind of place that Hope is born, given and re-newed
- I Cor 3:23 and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God. If that doesn't speak of security and shelter
- There is no physicality to such a place—It's a mistake to think otherwise. We put our hope in a lot of things in this life, thinking they will provide rest and security, but they are

only temporary escapes that blind us to the hold they develop over us and ultimately – destroy hope

- But this SHELTER - it's a place that was bought at high price by the blood of Christ; it is the hope of salvation, of being made right, of knowing that we are pursued by the Father of Love
- Read of all of Psalms 91, but here's the first part fm GNT
- Whoever goes to the LORD for safety,  
whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty,  
<sup>2</sup> can say to him,  
“You are my defender and protector.  
You are my God; in you I trust.”  
<sup>3</sup> He will keep you safe from all hidden dangers  
and from all deadly diseases.  
<sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his wings;  
you will be safe in his care;  
his faithfulness will protect and defend you.  
<sup>5</sup> You need not fear any dangers at night  
or sudden attacks during the day  
<sup>6</sup> or the plagues that strike in the dark  
or the evils that kill in daylight.

2<sup>nd</sup> – fm Ps 62 Trust “at all times”

- I gotta tell you, some of my “at all times” had left me without a lot of trust
- There were situations in my life where I didn't trust that things were going my way. Times where I didn't see the reason why things were happening the way they were; times when I didn't understand where the anxiety was coming from or that the outcome was going to favor me
- You see, my trust was mis-placed in all those situations, my trust was in myself, in how I could change my circumstances or in my own power, make things go my way or somehow affect the outcome to my advantage.
- My trust wasn't in God
- We don't give trust easily—it has to be earned, right? (trust activities)
- If you look closely at your life, I think you will find God proving He is trustworthy
  - **Rom 15:4** For whatever things were written before were written for our learning so that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
  - I mean, do I have to walk us through the O.T. and show
    - where God said He was going to do something and then He did it;

- where He told Israel stand back and watch your deliverance come – not you by your own effort – but totally from Me;
  - or do we have to again visit with Elisha’s servant, who said when surrounded by King Aram’s army – what shall we do, my lord? Seemingly hopeless situation. Elisha asks God to open his eyes and he sees the hills full of horses and chariots of fire
- Hope doesn’t disappoint because it’s placed in Someone who is utterly completely, without reservation trustworthy
  - **Psa 5:11** But let all who put their trust in You rejoice; let them always shout for joy, because You defend them.
- Remember the definition of biblical hope—confident expectation – trust in Him gives you that

The 3<sup>rd</sup> thing from Ps 62– Pour out your hearts to Him

- In the good and bad times—He’s waiting to hear from you
- Life is a mixture of pain and pleasure, of victory and defeat, of success and failure, of mountain tops and valleys.
- Mountain top experiences are great! We are so close to God, we can’t wait to tell someone about the experience. We are FULL of Hope (Camp) and praying is easy . . .  
But
- Valleys – um . . . . Here is where we clam up. Valleys are not conducive to communicating. The world closes in and God is not anywhere to be found. And we stop reaching out to God
- Here’s the thing about Valleys:
  - 1. VALLEYS ARE INEVITABLE

They are going to happen so you might as well count on them. You have either just come out of a valley, you’re in one right now, or you’re probably headed toward one. Valleys happen throughout life -- one right after another. After every mountain top there is a valley.

Jesus was very realistic about it. In [John 16](#)

"In the world you will have trouble." It’s not a matter of if, it’s when. It’s going to happen.

- 2. Valleys are unpredictable -- Have you noticed how easily a good day can become a bad day? A phone call, a letter, a routine doctor's check-up, a freak accident. Valleys just happen. Jeremiah 4:20 "Disaster follows disaster... In an instant my tents are destroyed, my shelter falls in a moment."
- 3. Valleys are impartial – no one is immune to them. No one is insulated from pain and sorrow. No one gets to skate through life problem-free. Good people and bad people – we all experience ups and downs
- 4. Valleys are temporary. They do have an end. They are not permanent. In that great Psalm 23 – David says “Even though I walk THROUGH the valley of shadow of death –It’s not a permanent place
  - 1 Pet 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now **for a little while** you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials
- 5. Valleys are Purposeful – every problem has a purpose.
  - Listen to these old words from a book we don't go to every often. The book is Lamentations we will be reading 3:18 – 20

"Gone is my glory, all that I had hoped for in the Lord. I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me."

It sure sounds like Jeremiah is going through a valley, But where is his hope? If the book of Lamentations ended at 3:20, all we could say is that at least someone, somewhere knew what it was like to live in a world unhinged. But the raw honesty of verses 18 - 20 is followed by these words of hope in verses 21 - 26

"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; **therefore I will hope in him.**' The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."

- Hope doesn't take its cue from circumstances. In fact, there is this odd calculus involved with hope. The greater the pain, the more desperate the circumstance, the stronger, more confident hope becomes.

- Which is exactly why Jeremiah was able to find hope in his dismal circumstance.
  - "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope." What did he call to mind? "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed." Valley's purpose is to re-point us to God's Love
- Jeremiah's confidence in the future had nothing to do with optimism. If you were to rank the characters of the Bible in order of their positive spirit and optimistic outlook, Jeremiah would be dead last. He was, by far, the most pessimistic prophet to ever bend Israel's ear. Isn't he called the weeping prophet?

So, Hope comes from God – He's shelter, He's trustworthy, and He's waiting to hear fm you

But wait, there is more . . .

How can I get Hope?

You're not going to like the answer to this one. These next set of verses strike straight to the heart of this question -- but these verses aren't plastered on a wall somewhere or on a quilt in your living room; not on a cute wood carving that you can hang up or on a Christian greeting card or in a worship song that I've heard yet – and I've listen to a LOT of Christian music . . . . but here they are: You heard them earlier . . .

**Rom 5** Therefore, having been justified by faith, <sup>[a]</sup>we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and <sup>[b]</sup>we exult in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only this, but <sup>[c]</sup>we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup>and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Exalt in our tribulations – that is not our usual response. Why is that?

The reason we don't exalt in our sufferings is because we don't exalt in the hope of the glory of God. We are not excited about the end goal of our sufferings – seeing God. We are too caught up in the suffering at hand; too self-centered on own pain and internal suffering.

I'll be honest with you, I struggled with these verses – how to bring them to life for all of us.

I mean, I'm talking about hope here, this is important. If someone was going to tell me where to get this hope, I'd be listening and if I was the person who was going to tell someone where to get this hope, I would want to be distinctly clear on where to go. People are looking for this—something to hang on to when the tough times come

And so I went searching – I mean the verses speak for themselves, they are scripture and they are life. But even Christ reached for a parable or story or used every day events and objects to emphasize eternal truths . . .

And so, I want to tell you part of a story of a guy I know. I have his permission to tell this when it's needed, when it might help – and I think this is one of those times.

From all outside appearances, he was a typical kid during his childhood, for the most part, played basketball in jr and sr high school, struggled with math, hung out with his friends at the bowling alley playing pinball and went to the skating rink on Saturday nights where everyone hung out back in the early 70s. He dealt with all the social anxieties every teenager deals with but he had some extra baggage -- on the inside, he was struggling with a situation—he had been abused (and for the sensitive hears in the audience, not the physical, mental, emotional type) from about age 5 to about 13/14 from a family member who should have been a shield against things like that; that should have been his protector, someone who should have created a place of safety in the home, but in a great betrayal became someone other than that.

My friend carried a great deal of shame and sense of worthlessness early on and that affected some important relationships in his life. His 20s, 30s and even early 40s were challenging, to say the least. He thought if he did a lot of “church” that would fix his problems; he became involved, teaching classes, going to summer youth camps, got involved in the local community, threw himself into work. He thought if he would pray harder, read his Bible more, sing louder in church (which basically only irritated the people around him), even serve as a deacon that all this would make it go away. It didn't.

In the process he learned about Christ, he knew about hope, but in the end, he realized he didn't know Christ, and didn't know true hope. He discovered his road to healing was to develop a one on one relationship with Christ, reaching out to others, not keeping secrets and understanding that when God says He works all things out for our good, He includes stuff like this.

Today, he's on the other side of all that, with a wife that modeled a lot of forgiveness, mercy and grace and stuck in there through some pretty tough times with him and a daughter that he adores.



He would not chose this particular tribulation to learn of perservance and character, but he sees the result and how those all combine to give this bone soaking hope that God will not fail him, that God is faithful to all His promises and has not left him alone.

If he were standing before you this morning. . . he would tell you that he's not perfect by any measure, that there are days he messes up and needs God's grace, mercy and forgiveness. He would also say that he wouldn't trade one second of his journey because it has brought him to a good place, has made him lean into the Savior who provides shelter, is trustworthy and who walks with Him through valleys and mountaintops.

This is the <sup>5</sup>hope that does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through Holy Spirit who was given to us.

You need some Hope this morning? There is only one source and it's not a place or an event or a set of words to say – the source is Jesus and your connection to Him.

In the catacombs of ancient Rome, archeologists have discovered a number of early Christian symbols. One of them is the Icthus or a fish. One is the shepherd. And there is one more common symbol. An anchor.

Now why do you suppose they would have an anchor as a common symbol? Maybe it's because of [Hebrews 6:19](#). Hebrews written around 65 to 80 AD.

; "But we have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

The catacombs were where Christians hid from Roman persecution and where they buried their dead. Odd, isn't it that a symbol of firm and secure hope would exist in a place of hiding, in a place of death.

But, not when you remember that their hope in the face of persecution and death rested on the memory of an empty tomb, a risen savior, and a coming King. Your hope can rest there, too.

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- We read verses like:
- "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. James 1:2
- In this you greatly rejoice, **even though now for a little while**, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, . . . (1 Peter 1:6–7)
- Almost universally, suffering weakens and takes a toll on the person going through it. We don't generally regard being weak as a good thing, but Scripture says differently.
- Paul recounts to the Corinthians how he was given "a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me" which he pleaded with God "three times that it might leave". But God's response was "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness", which caused Paul to eventually conclude, "I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me" (2 Corinthians 12:7–9).

The word perseverance (  $\mu$  ) is literally remain - under, it is remaining under or staying power. It is the capacity of staying under a heavy burden or load. The concept is not one of passive waiting, but it describes the attitude of overcoming (Jn. 16:33).

Only the crucible of distress can develop perseverance.

That in turn develops character.

George Frederick Handel, the great musician, lost his health; his right side was paralyzed; his money was gone; and his creditors seized and threatened to imprison him. Handel was so disheartened by his tragic experience that he almost despaired for a brief time. But his faith prevailed, and he composed his greatest work. "The Hallelujah Chorus" during this time.

Years ago the village blacksmith produced useful implements out of pieces of iron. As he pumped the bellows, the furnace glowed red. Into the fire he thrust the metal until it became

almost transparent in the white heat. Then the blacksmith pulled it out of the fire, placed it on the anvil, and with a heavy hammer pounded the metal made malleable by the flame.

Again the iron was put into the fire and again the blacksmith struck it with the hammer. All the while, he alternated plunging the metal into the fire and into the water. The shock tempered it and gave it durability and toughness. That newly formed instrument developed a strength that could be produced no other way.

There is no easy method to spiritual maturity.

Strong Christian character comes from perseverance learned in the fire of tribulation, The heat, the hammer, the hardship may seem almost too much for us to bear at times. But our heavenly Father allows only what is needed in the tempering process. He wants us to become useful instruments of praise and glory in His hand.

Verse 4, "And perseverance, proven character, and proven character, hope;"

The word character (  $\mu$  ) indicates tested value. It describes an approved quality or product. It was used of metal whose impurities had been purged by fire, becoming pure metal like sterling silver. The endurance of trials tends to burn the dross out of our lives. It reduces our want list drastically. It makes us men and women of approved or tested character.

This proven character is of great worth because of what it produces. Hope is the diploma award to those who by the grace of God do well on the tests of character.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgMFxGsQ8u0> 4 hours of worship

**Job 11:18** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/job/11-18.html>

**18** You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety.

**Job 13:15** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/job/13-15.html>

**15** Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.

**Job 14:7** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/job/14-7.html>

**7** "At least there is hope for a tree: If it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail.

**Job 17:13** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/job/17-13.html>

**13** If the only home I hope for is the grave, if I spread out my bed in darkness,

**14** if I say to corruption, 'You are my father,' and to the worm, 'My mother' or 'My sister,'

**15** where then is my hope? Who can see any hope for me?

**16** Will it go down to the gates of death? Will we descend together into the dust?"

**Psalm 25:3** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/25-3.html>

**3** No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

**Psalm 25:5** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/25-5.html>

**5** guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

**Psalm 25:21** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/25-21.html>

**21** May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you.

**Psalm 33:18** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/33-18.html>

**18** But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,

[Psalm 33:20](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/33-20.html>

**20** We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield

[Psalm 39:7](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/39-7.html>

**7** "But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.

[Psalm 42:5](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/42-5.html>

**5** Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and

[Psalm 52:9](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/52-9.html>

**9** I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints.

[Psalm 62:5](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/62-5.html>

**5** Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.

[Psalm 65:5](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/65-5.html>

**5** You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

[Psalm 71:5](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/71-5.html>

**5** For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.

## **HOPE IN YOUR WORD**

[Psalm 119:81](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/119-81.html>

**81** My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word.

[Psalm 119:114](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/119-114.html>

**114** You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

[Psalm 119:147](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/119-147.html>

147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.

Psalm 130:5 NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/130-5.html>

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.

HOPE IN LOVE

[Proverbs 13:12](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/proverbs/13-12.html>

**12 Hope deferred** makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

[Proverbs 24:20](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/proverbs/24-20.html>

**20** for the evil man has no future hope, and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out.

[Ecclesiastes 9:4](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/ecclesiastes/9-4.html>

**4 Anyone who is among the living has hope--even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!**

[Isaiah 40:31](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/40-31.html>

**31** 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.

[Jeremiah 29:11](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/jeremiah/29-11.html>

**11** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

**19** I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.

**20** I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

**21** Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:

**22** Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

**23** They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

**24** I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

**25** The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;

[Romans 4:18](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/romans/4-18.html>

**18** Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

**Romans 5:4** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/romans/5-4.html>

**4** perseverance, character; and character, hope.

**5** And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

**Romans 8:24** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/romans/8-24.html>

**24** For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?

**Romans 12:12** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/romans/12-12.html>

**12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

**Romans 15:4** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/romans/15-4.html>

**4** For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

**Romans 15:13** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/romans/15-13.html>

**13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A city slicker moved to a farm and bought a cow. Shortly after, the cow went dry. A farmer, who got word of this, expressed surprise. The city man said he was surprised too. "I can't understand it, for if a person ever was considerate of an animal, I was of that cow. If I didn't need any milk, I didn't milk her. If I only needed a quart, I took only a quart." The farmer then had to explain to the city fellow that the only way to keep milk flowing is not to take as little as possible from the cow, but to take as much as possible.

**1 Corinthians 13:13** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-corinthians/13-13.html>

**13** And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**1 Corinthians 15:19** NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-corinthians/15-19.html>

**19** If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

[Colossians 1:5](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/colossians/1-5.html>

**5** the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel

[Titus 1:2](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/titus/1-2.html>

**2** a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

[Hebrews 6:18](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/hebrews/6-18.html>

**18** God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

[Hebrews 6:19](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/hebrews/6-19.html>

**19** We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

[Hebrews 11:1](#) NIV

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/hebrews/11-1.html>

**1** Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

[2 Corinthians 4:16-18](#)

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. **17**For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **18**So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.