

Dwelling in the Word- Hope

Lamentations 3:22-24

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

Romans 5: 1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

“So long as we try to depend on our own efforts we are tempest-tossed, like mariners striving with a sea which threatens to overwhelm us completely, but now that we have heard the word of Christ, we have reached at last the haven of God’s grace, and we know the calm of depending, not on what we can do for ourselves, but on what God has done for us. Because of Jesus we have entry to the presence of the King of Kings; we have entry to the haven of God’s grace.” *From William Barclay Commentary*

Hope and Faith

“When a person’s hope is in God it cannot turn to dust and ashes.
When a person’s hope is in God it cannot be disappointed.
When a person’s hope is in the love of God it can never be an illusion,
for God is loving us with an everlasting love, which is backed by an everlasting power.”
From William Barclay Commentary

Hope and Comfort-

I Need Thy Sense of the Future

Teach me to know that life is ever
On the side of the future.
Keep alive in me the forward look, the high hope
The onward surge. Let me not be frozen
Either by the past or the present.
Grant me, O patient Father, thy sense of the future
Without which all life would sicken and die.
From Deep Is the Hunger by Howard Thurman

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. *Jeremiah 29:11*

Hope and Action-

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.
Prayer of Sir Francis Drake

Words of Hope from other sources:

*"Don't give up, don't give up, don't ever give up."
Jim Valvano*

.. know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5: 3-5

*"You are only a prisoner when you lose hope."
Leonard from Grantchester series*

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

*"Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies."
Andy Dufresne, Shawshank Redemption*

*For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;
I shall not be shaken. Psalm 62:5-6*

Spend a few moments reading through these scriptures and comments and thoughts about Hope.

What concepts or phrases spark deeper thoughts about Hope?

How has your Faith and Hope become stronger and deeper in the midst of suffering and struggles?

When have you become a prisoner of something because you lost Hope?

How does the God of Hope move you to action and discipleship?

In what ways is Hope a Comfort as you look to the future?