

Confident Hope

Sandra sat in my office for the first time, pouring out her heart. She had been recently divorced and she felt abandoned and rejected. Not only was she dealing with the hurt of rejection, but she was suddenly thrust into the job market, with very little confidence that she had any skills that an employer would value. She was alone, broke, and overwhelmed.

“I have no hope,” she told me. “How can I begin to hope when everything in my life seems to be going wrong?”

For us to have hope as Christians we must distinguish between the kind of hope the world talks about and the kind of hope that Christians have. We must define hope and what it means to us in practical terms.

To a non-believer, hope lies in government, people, education, finances, or power. The problem with that is that this kind of hope is in something that is always changeable. People and government may let us down. Education may not lead us to our goal of success. Financial security is dependent upon the state of the economy. Power is uncertain as well.

If we put our hope in government, people, education, finances, or power, we will find ourselves with no hope if we see our difficult circumstances not changing or having no possibility of changing.

Our hope is in God. Nothing more, Nothing less. Since God is the one thing in our life that is *constant*, our hope can be constant as well if our hope is in God. So what does it mean to hope in God?

First, we hope God's character. The Bible tells us that He is love (I John 3:1), He is truth (John 14:6), and He is always unchanging (James 1:17). We know that He is faithful (Lamentations 3:23) and has plans for us that are good and not harmful (Jeremiah 29:11).

This, of course, is not to say that we will not go through difficult circumstances. What we know, though, is that he does not ever allow circumstances to harm us. He will always use those difficult things in our lives for good purposes (Genesis 50:20).

Second, we hope and trust in God's promises. We need to remember that God doesn't lie (Numbers 23:19). He has promised to be faithful (II Timothy 2:13). He has also promised never to leave us (Hebrews 13:5). He has promised to be our strength (Psalm 46:1). The list of God's promises go on and on.

Third, we hope in Christ's power of redemption. He has bought us with His own blood, and we can always have full confidence in Him (Ephesians 1:7). Even more important, what He started by purchasing us with His blood, Christ has promised to complete, conforming us more and more to His image (Philippians 1:6). Because of Christ's shed blood, God now calls us His friends (John 15:15).

Because we are now friends of God, we know that He does not wish to harm us but only to work in our lives for our good (Romans 8:28).

Finally, we have a hope in Christ's resurrection power. We, as believers, understand that this earthly life isn't all there is. We have hope of resurrection and an eternity with our God (I Peter 1:3-4). This hope gives us a solid assurance and understanding that the things that are difficult here on earth and in this life are only temporary (I Timothy 6:17). We know that the things that we suffer now are temporary and don't compare with the glory that will be revealed to us (Romans 8:18). In the midst of his great and long suffering, Paul talks about pursuing our ultimate goal of the heavenly prize. (Philippians 3:14)

Hopelessness begins to dissipate when we understand the depth of God's love for us.

The Apostle Paul writes:

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!”

Romans 8:38-39

When we feel as if we have no hope, we are usually believing lies instead of the truth of God’s word. God tells us that the hope we have in Him is steadfast and sure (Hebrews 6:19). Fill your mind with scripture that speaks the truth about who you are in Christ, how God feels about you, and the hope you have in Him.

Learn to control those negative thoughts that will only serve to make you feel more hopeless and afraid. You may want to take the time to look up scriptures referred to in the text and on the back of this pamphlet. You may also want to read another pamphlet of mine, “Taking Your Thoughts Captive.”

God’s word is true. We have hope in God’s **character**, God’s **promises**, God’s power of **redemption** and His **resurrection power**. That hope is our anchor which cannot ever change!