



expectation

Expecting Hope

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Biblical hope not only desire something good for the future – it expect it to happen.

Proverbs 13:12 NLT

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.

God where were you when... _____

I believe our struggle with hope is that hope is commonly built on the perception that things must go our way, or else they are a disappointment, a failure.

Romans 4:18-21 NLT

Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb. Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.

Biblical hope is never based on what is possible with man.

Hoping in God does not come naturally to us.

Ordinarily, when we express hope, we are expressing uncertainty.

Luke 4:18-19 NLT

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.”

Luke 4:20-21 NLT

He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

Isaiah 7: 14 NIV

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son; and will call him Immanuel.

The freedom of the gospel is coming to the Father with the recognition that he supplies what we really need to release us from the perspectives in life that chain us down and cause us to mistrust others.

Romans 5:3-5 NLT

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

What is the story that I keep rehearsing?

If it is that things must go my way, in my timing, I will be continually disappointed.

Apprenticeship Prayer Partner Questions:

- Would you typically describe yourself as a person who sees the cup as half full or half empty? What causes you to think that way?
- What are some of the stories of God's faithfulness in your life that can serve as a catalyst for hope in your life?
- Is there a scripture that you can begin to memorize that will serve as a reminder of where our hope can be found as a follower of Christ?

Narratives of Hope**Philippians 1:6 NLT**

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Romans 8:28 NLT

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Deuteronomy 31:6 NLT

So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you."

Revelation 21: 4-5a NLT

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!"

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NLT

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Lamentations 3:21-24 NLT

Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!"