

Hebrews 6:11-12

Diligent For Hope

Hope is the fruit produced when we diligently pursue and acquire true wisdom. It is the sure and certain promise of God that is not yet manifest in its fullness; yet to us, it is as real as if we held it already. It is important to understand that this is not merely wishful thinking, it is the product of faith in God. We are NOT the source of our hope, God is. And our hope is rooted in His nature, in His power and in His person. This sure and certain hope is that which sustains us in the midst of whatever we face in this life.

Psalm 20:7–9 (NKJV)

⁷ Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God. ⁸ They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright. ⁹ Save, Lord! May the King answer us when we call.

There is no shortage of things that we are commanded to trust in this culture

- trust the science
- trust the government
- trust in the goodness of all mankind

none of these things are worthy of trust, all of them are broken and corrupt, driven by wrong principles, wrong assumptions, wrong motives and wrong goals... there is only ONE that is worthy of trusting in, and therefore worthy of being the source of your hope... that ONE is Jesus Christ. But to hold on to the hope that comes to us from Him we must be diligent in our trust and diligent for our hope.

I. HOPE IS THE POSSESSION OF THE LIVING

Ecclesiastes 9:4

But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

a. It is only found in Christ, thus those who are not spiritually alive have no hope. They will die in their sin, and be judged, and condemned to an eternity in hell. There is no alternate path to peace with God. There is only Christ.

- b. As long as there is life, there is hope. God may yet call them to Himself and save them even as He has done for we who are found in Christ.

Ephesians 2.1-7

II. HOPE IS GROUNDED IN THE TRUTHFULNESS OF GOD

- a. His word informs it

Psalm 119:147–148

*¹⁴⁷ I rise before the dawning of the morning,
And cry for help; I hope in Your word. ¹⁴⁸ My
eyes are awake through the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word.*

Psalm 119:165–167

*¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love Your law,
And nothing causes them to stumble. ¹⁶⁶ Lord, I
hope for Your salvation, And I do Your
commandments. ¹⁶⁷ My soul keeps Your
testimonies, And I love them exceedingly.*

b. His person sustains it

Psalm 131:1–3

Isaiah 8:17

¹⁷ And I will wait on the Lord, Who hides His face from the house of Jacob; And I will hope in Him.

Romans 15:13

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 42:4–5, 11

c. His Spirit creates and nurtures it

1 Thessalonians 1:2–5

2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

III. HOPE IS STRENGTHENED IN AFFLICTION

a. By Natural Process of growth and development

Romans 5:1–5

b. By Spiritual infusion from God

2 Corinthians 1:3–7

c. This also demonstrates that hope grows in affliction by the spiritually dynamic effect of sharing the comfort you have received. This comfort only comes in trials and as you share what you have been given it grows, both in you and in them.

IV. OUR TRUE HOPE IS ROOTED IN THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

a. Denying the resurrection is fatal

i. It kills you and it kills hope...

1 Corinthians 15:12–19

- b. With our investiture in Christ, being united to Him in death and raised with Him in life, the hope of God is planted deep in us. But we must know, the source of our hope. We need God to teach us truth and thus fight the lies of the world.

Ephesians 1:15–23

V. ALL TRUE HOPE IS FUTURE BASED, OTHER DRIVEN

- a. Known, not seen

Romans 8:18–25

- b. Anticipated but not immediate

Proverbs 13:12 (NKJV) ¹² Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

- c. Rooted in His victory

1 Peter 1:13–21

d. Grows when shared

Colossians 1:24–29

e. Aimed unto holiness

Ephesians 4:1–6

1 John 3:1–3

¹ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.