

- The Person Of Hope!

- Is Your Hope In The Lord Tonight?
- How Can We Tell?

4. In Order For You To Have:

- The Biblical & Certain Kind Of Hope:
 - That God Offers To His People:
 - There Are Three Things That You Need:
 - That We See From This Verse!

* First - There Needs To Be:

1. **The Proper Possession:**

- Of Hope! In 1 Thessalonians 1:3:
 - Paul Describes Their Hope In:
 - **“Our”** Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Paul Includes Himself In This Statement:
 - And Describes A Personal Relationship Between Them & Jesus!
 - As We Sometimes Sing - “Now I Belong To Jesus – And – Jesus Belongs To Me!”
 - In Order For Them – And For Us:
 - To Have True & Timeless Hope:
 - We Must “Possess” Jesus Christ – Even As He “Possesses” Us!
 - And This Can Only Happen Through:
- A Personal Faith:
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - This Is Where It Starts!
 - A Person Will Never Experience & Enjoy The Hope That God Offers:
 - If They Remain Apart From Him!
 - After All – That Is Why Jesus Came!
 - To Save Us & To Bring Us True Hope!
 - Everything He Did!
 - His Birth / His Life / His Death On The Cross / His Resurrection!
 - Peter Puts It This Way In - 1 Peter 1:3-5 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead – To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, / Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time!”
 - Have You Believed In Jesus Christ Alone:
 - And Are You Trusting In Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Own Personal Savior From Sin?
 - Through This Personal Faith:
 - You Now **Can** Say & Sing - “Now I Belong To Jesus – Jesus Belongs To Me – Not For The Years Of Time Alone – But For Eternity!”
 - He Is “Your” & “Our” Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And This Is Necessary:
 - In Order For Us To Have True Hope!
 - This “Lively Hope” – As Peter Describes It! But Also - There Needs To Be:
- A Personal Fellowship:
 - With The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - It Starts With Faith – And It Continues Through Fellowship!
 - **IE:** Have You Ever Found Something Around The House That You Forgot You Had? Like That \$20 Bill That You Found In Your Pocket After It Went Through The Wash! A Little Bit Of Excitement - But It Was There All Along!
 - Many Christians Do Not Enjoy The Subjective Experience:
 - Of Their Hope In Christ:
 - Because They Are Not Spending Time With The Lord & Growing In Their Faith & Hope In Him!
 - This Is Why We Read In:
 - Hebrews 3:6 - That We Are To “Hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end!”
 - When You Remain In Fellowship With The Lord – You Will Experience A Greater Confidence & Joy In The Lord:

- And His Hope!
- This Fellowship Includes:
 - Spending Time With Him Through His Word & Through Prayer! Even Spending Time Growing Together With His People!
- Do You Have The Proper Possession:
 - Of The Hope Of Jesus Christ?
 - It Can Only Come:
 - Through Faith In Him & Fellowship With Him!

* But - In Order For You To Have True Hope – There Also Needs To Be:

2. **The Proper Position:**

- Of Hope! Again - In 1 Thessalonians 1:3:
 - It Is A Hope Focused On:
 - “Our – **Lord Jesus Christ!**”
 - Here - Paul Uses The Full Name & Title Of Jesus - To Show Us Both How & Why We Must Keep Our Hope In Him!
 - If Your Hope Is In Any Other Person:
 - Your Hopes Will Be Dashed!
 - Because Noone Else Is Like Jesus!
 - Not Even Close! And So:
 - The Proper Position Of Your Hope Is In:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ Alone! And In:
- The Power Of Christ:
 - As “Lord!”
 - “Lord” - Here - Means Master - And It Implies That He Is Supreme In His Power & Authority!
 - As “Lord” - Jesus Is Sovereign!
 - And So - This Leads Us To:
 - The Very Identity Of Jesus:
 - If Jesus Is The Lord – Then He Is God In The Flesh!
 - And So - As “Our Lord” - He Is Worthy Of Our Trust & Hope!
 - Even As David Preaches To His Own Soul:
 - In Psalm 43:5 - To “Hope In God!”
 - When Our Hope Is In Jesus As “Lord” – Our Hope *Is* In God!
 - The Proper Position Of Your Hope Is Also In:
- The Purpose Of Christ:
 - As “Our Lord **Jesus!**”
 - The Personal Name Of Jesus:
 - Simply Means – “Savior!”
 - And This Leads Us To:
 - The Purpose Of Jesus:
 - Coming Into The World In The First Place!
 - Jesus Himself Said So In Many Places:
 - Including - Luke 19:10 - “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost!”
 - And So - As “Our Lord Jesus” - He Is Worthy Of Our Trust & Hope!
 - Because Of The Extent Of His Ability To Save!
 - It Is Not Just A Temporary Salvation & Hope:
 - From The Problems / Pain / Enemies That We All Face Right Now!
 - Because A Temporary Hope Is Not A True Hope At All!
 - We Know This From The Words Of Paul In 1 Corinthians 15:19 - “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable!”
 - So Instead - What Jesus Offers - Is A Timeless Salvation & Hope!
 - And A Complete Salvation!
 - Hebrews 7:24-25 - “But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. / Wherefore he is able also to save them *to the uttermost* that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them!”
 - The Proper Position Of Your Hope Is Also In:
- The Promise Of Christ:
 - As “Our Lord Jesus **Christ!**”
 - The Old Testament Title Of “Messiah!”
 - Which Means - “The Anointed One!”

- The One Specially Chosen By God The Father:
 - To Accomplish & Consummate His Purposes For This World!
- Jesus Is The One:
 - Promised Throughout All The Ages Past:
 - To Rescue Us & Provide For Us:
 - What We Need Most!
 - A Relationship With Him!
- Do You Have The Proper Position:
 - For Your Hope?
 - It Can Only Be In:
 - The "Lord Jesus Christ!"
 - You Need To Keep Your Focus On Him As:
 - Your Lord & Sovereign God!
 - You Need To Trust In Him As:
 - Your Savior!
 - And You Need To Look To Him:
 - As He Fulfills All Of His Promises:
 - To You!

* And - In Order For You To Have True Hope – There Also Needs To Be:

3. ***The Proper Patience:***

- Of Hope! Further - In 1 Thessalonians 1:3:
 - It Is A Hope That Results In:
 - "Patience!"
 - "Patience Of Hope In Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
 - This Is What Paul Remembered:
 - About Those Thessalonian Christians!
 - The Impact Of Their Hope On Their Everyday Lives!
 - Even Through Their Suffering & Their Struggles!
- So - How Can You Tell:
 - If & When You Have The Right Kind Of Hope:
 - Operating In Your Christian Life?
 - It Will Manifest Itself Through "Patience!"
 - In Fact - "Patience" & "Hope" Are Mentioned Together Several Times In The New Testament:
 - And Are Closely Related!
- Is Your Hope In The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - In Your Everyday Circumstances / Conditions:
 - In Life?
 - If It Is - It Will Show Itself:
 - Through Patience In Those Circumstances!
 - We Often Call This Kind Of Patience:
 - "Contentment!"
 - You Are Able To Be Content - Because Your Hope Is Not In The Things Around You, But In Christ!
 - Hebrews 13:5 Reminds Us:
 - Of This Kind Of Patience - "Let your conversation (Lifestyle - Ordinary / Everyday Circumstances) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee!"
 - Our Hope In The Lord:
 - Will Lead Us To Patience & Contentment:
 - No Matter What Circumstance We Face In Our Lives!
- Is Your Hope In The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - In Your Trials & Your Personal Relationships:
 - In Life?
 - If It Is - It Will Show Itself:
 - Through Patience In Those Trials!
 - We Often Call This Kind Of Patience:
 - "Longsuffering!"
 - You Will Be Able To Be Longsuffering - Because Your Hope Is Not In Other People, But In Jesus!

- Ephesians 4:1-4 Reminds Us:
 - Of This Kind Of Patience - "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, / With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; / Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. / There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling!"
- Our Hope In The Lord:
 - Will Lead Us To Patience & Longsuffering:
 - No Matter What Trial We Face In Our Lives Or In Our Relationships!
- Is Your Hope In The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - In Your Personal Walk & Relationship:
 - With God?
 - If So - It Will Show Itself:
 - Through Patience In That Walk & Relationship!
 - We Often Call This Kind Of Patience:
 - "Perseverance!"
 - You Are Able To Persevere - Because Your Hope Is In His Great Faithfulness To You!
 - Our Hope In The Lord:
 - Will Lead Us To Patience & Perseverance:
 - In Our Walk With God!
- Do You Have The Proper Patience:
 - From Your Hope?
 - You Can - But Only If:
 - You Possess True Hope:
 - In The Lord!
 - And When You Do:
 - This Hope-Filled & Hope-Fueled Patience:
 - Will Lead To Greater:
 - Contentment!
 - Longsuffering!
 - And Perseverance!

Conclusion:

1. In Order For You To Have True Hope:
 - There's One More Thing You Need:
 - And That Is - The Proper Priority:
 - Of Hope!
 - In Romans 15:13 - Paul Writes This Prayer Of Blessing:
 - "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost!"
 - Paul Knew That The Only Source:
 - For A Hope That Produces:
 - Joy & Peace & An Abiding & Abundant Hope:
 - Is God!
 - And So - Our Priority Should Be:
 - To Always Go To The Lord:
 - When We Are Struggling With Hope!
 - 2. And That Is Why David Could Write:
 - In Psalm 31:23 - "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD!"
 - Keep Your Hope In The Person Of Hope!
 - "Our Lord Jesus Christ!"

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