

HOPE

HOPE IS DISTINCT TO FAITH.

*Faith focuses on God's **ABILITY***

*Hope focuses on God's **CREATIVITY***

Faith are the hands we use to hold onto the hope that we affirm.

Hope plays a key role in all of our lives.

God's creation recognise hope and it's value

HOPE IS STRENGTH

For hope to be a strength, we need endurance.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NLT) As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The reason behind the enduring hope of the Thessalonian church is Jesus Christ.

- Enduring hope has nothing to do with what is happening on the outside, and everything to do with what is happening on the inside.

For hope to be strength, we need to focus on our grip.

Hebrews 10:23 (NLT) Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

- When we don't hold tightly to our hope, we can quickly find ourselves disoriented and possibly the ground.

Joshua 8:14 (NLT) When the king of Ai saw the Israelites across the valley, he and all his army hurried out early in the morning and attacked the Israelites at a place overlooking the Jordan Valley. But he didn't realize there was an ambush behind the town.

Hope is our strength when:

- We allow Jesus to step into our lives
- We pay attention to the grip strength we have on hope

HOPE IS AN ANCHOR

Anchor: A device used to connect a vessel to the bed of a body of water to prevent the craft from drifting due to wind or current.

The weight of our hope is determined by how much value we have added to the relationship we have with Jesus.

When hope is our 'twin anchor', it steadies us.

Twin Anchor: A pair of anchors that help reduce the affects the wind and tide have on a boat.

Twin anchor #1 is found in the past

Hebrews 10:19-23 (NLT) And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. ²⁰ By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. ²¹ And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, ²² let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

- This anchor is placed there by God
- This anchor IS the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Twin anchor #2 is found in the future

Romans 5:2-4 (NLT) *Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. ³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*

- When you live in hope, the issues of life cause a ripple effect from endurance to character and character to a stronger hope

When we have hope as our anchor, we find stability in our inner world.

HOPE IS ALIVE

The hope we have within us is not a dead one, It is living and active.

1 Peter 1:3 (NASB) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

Hope - Elpida (Greek) = 'An eager and confident expectation'

- The hope of the believer originates from a living and resurrected saviour.

The character of Jesus has not only been the highest pattern of virtue, but the longest incentive in its practice, and has exerted so deep an influence, that it may be truly said that the simple record of three short years of active life has done more to regenerate and to soften mankind than all the disquisitions of philosophers and all the exhortations of moralists. - W.E.H. Lecky

The grave was temporary for Jesus. Since his resurrection he's been reigning.

Our Living Hope:

- Is Anchored in what Jesus had done for us in the past on the cross.
- Gives us strength, courage and confidence in the present.
- Ushers us into the future by keeping us focused on finishing the race well.

HOW TO HAVE HOPE:

- Allow Jesus to become our strength
- Allow Jesus to be our anchor
- Allow Jesus to transfuse His life into our lives