

HOLD ONTO HOPE

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

For us to fulfill our purpose in life, we need Hope to propel us into the future.

ASPECT #1

True Hope has only one source.

Ephesians 1:18 (NLT)

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

God is the only source of true Hope.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NLT)

3 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 Thessalonian church's source of hope was Jesus Christ.

The more we know Jesus, the stronger we can hold onto the hope that he brings.

1 Peter 1:13 (NLT)

So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.

Hope is the one commodity in this life that we should not diversify, it should only be found in the hands of Christ, who is the source of true hope.

2nd law of thermodynamics: *as energy is transferred or transformed, more and more of it is wasted*

Nothing in this world is worthy enough for us to place our hope into it.

Psalms 75:7 (NLT)

“It is God alone who judges; he decides who will rise and who will fall.”

Colossians 1:27 (NLT)

For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

The secret to a confident hope: *Christ living in you.*

1 Peter 1:3 (NLT)

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation,

Romans 8:24 (NLT)

We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it.

No matter what we do or can achieve in life, Hope can not be created with human hands, it only has one source, that is Christ.

ASPECT #2

True Hope changes our perspective

Hebrews 10:19-23 (NLT)

19 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.

God's hope is one that ties together all of history.

- **Past:** It's foundation is found in the cross of Christ.
- **Present:** It is transforming us.
- **Future:** It carries us into the future.

Romans 5:2-4 (NLT)

2 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.

Hope gives us the ability to be joyful in the present.

True hope is when we see the victories God has for us in the future and be able to live as if those victories are happening to us today.

Jeremiah 27:21-22 (NLT)

“Yes, this is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says about the precious things still in the Temple, in the palace of Judah's king, and in Jerusalem: ‘They will all be carried away to Babylon and will stay there until I send for them,’ says the Lord. ‘Then I will bring them back to Jerusalem again.’”

Even when the things in God's Temple were getting plundered. It did not bother God, because He is well able to restore and bring back what was taken.

One of the most seemingly hopeless stories is found in Job:

Job 17:11-16 (NLT)

11 My days are over. My hopes have disappeared. My heart's desires are broken. 12 These men say that night is day; they claim that the darkness is light. 13 What if I go to the grave and make my bed in darkness? 14 What if I call the grave my father, and the maggot my mother or my sister? 15 Where then is my hope? Can anyone find it? 16 No, my hope will go down with me to the grave. We will rest together in the dust!"

God's reply to Job:

Job 38:2-3 (NLT)

2 "Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words? 3 Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.

Amongst all of the pain we may go through, God has ultimate sovereignty.

When we receive true hope, we receive the strength to be able to stand up and endure any circumstance that may come our way.

Hold onto Hope.